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THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

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END OF VOLUME ELEVENTH.

" December came next, the chill December;
And he, through merry feasting which he made,
And great bonfires, did not the cold remember;
His Saviour's birth so much his mind did glad.
Upon a shaggy bearded goat he rode
The same wherewith Dan Jove in tender years,
They say was nourished by the Idean may'd;
And in his hand a broad deep bowle he bears,
Of which he freely drinks an health to all his peers."
Spencer.

The twelfth and last month of the year has come, and we issue the last number of the 11th volume of our magazine. In doing so we cannot forbear returning our thanks to our numerous friends for many acts of kindness and encouragement during the year 1874, and to say that we have struggled to merit those evidences of esteem.

Our subscription list has increased and our advertisement columns have doubled the past year, and we are glad to know that those who advertise in the *Maryland Farmer* continue after the first trial, experiencing the benefit in so doing, from our large circulation among persons who live in the country and have but few opportunities to know where different articles they want are to be had, except through their agricultural and other papers.

We shall embellish the *Farmer* the coming year with good illustrations of stock, flowers, &c. This will be attended with much increased expense, but we hope that each one of our present subscribers will remunerate us by sending one or more new subscriptions. This can be done easily at the low cost of our Magazine, if our friends will make the effort. We shall then be able to expend more upon the paper and render it at a still lower rate, considering its much increased value, as a safe guide for the inexperienced farmer, and a reliable, practical and instructive Magazine for those who have experience, but are wise enough to read and profit by the practices, experiences, and theories of others.

We shall continue to Chat with the Ladies, and furnish each month such valuable information about household matters as will attract their attention.

As a further inducement for the old subscribers to renew and new ones to subscribe, we will prepay the postage on all such paid subscriptions before the first of January, and give as a premium to each the valuable book of PROFESSOR WILKINSON, on *Dairy Rooms and Dairy Farming*, supplemented with a chapter of *Useful Maxims and Safe Counsel*.

THE NEW POSTAGE LAW.

The New Postal Law, which goes into effect on the first of January next, makes it obligatory upon publishers to *pre-pay* postage on all periodicals.—Under the law we must pay at the rate of two cents per pound, which in the course of a year will amount to about 10 cents instead of 12 cents, as heretofore, for the *Maryland Farmer*.

To induce our friends to make prompt payment, we offer to *pre-pay* the postage on all *new* and all *old* subscribers who renew before the *First of January*, 1875.

It is hoped that every old subscriber will promptly renew, and aid us in increasing our circulation by sending us at least *one* new subscriber from his neighborhood, which will require but a small effort.

WE OFFER to all who *renew* their subscriptions, and all *new* subscribers received before the *First of January* 1875, in addition to pre-paying the postage, a copy of PROF. WILKINSON'S "*Illustrated Essay on Dairy Rooms and Dairy Farming* : Supplement by a chapter of *Useful Maxims and Safe Counsel*—also a description of Wilkinson's latest improvement in dairies, The Gulf Stream Refrigerated Dairy."

CLUBBING.—We will furnish Clubs of FIVE and upwards, with the MARYLAND FARMER, at \$1 per annum, postage prepaid. They need not be confined to one post office. We thus put it in the power of every farmer in Maryland and the adjoining States to secure a standard magazine.

HEMP.

The hemp plant is a native of the East Indies, and as an article of commerce is of great importance. The fibres are prepared for spinning, in like manner as is flax. The strands are now made into ropes, and sail cloth, &c., by machinery much better than when done by the slow process of manual labor.

Considering it as indispensable to commerce and its many uses, the history of hemp connected with its introduction in this country, is highly interesting. The Puritans found the Indians using the wild hemp for their fishing lines and nets, and cultivated it for like purposes, until about 1629 the cultivated hemp seed was sent over from England.—The Virginia settlers were required to grow hemp, and finding it profitable they cultivated it extensively, and manufactured it into cordage of all sizes. In 1790 Maryland raised more hemp than any State in the then Union, and Baltimore built more ships and vessels, and manufactured more cordage and other hempen goods than any other city. In 1794 to about 1810, Maryland and Virginia were the great hemp producing States. Since then, its cultivation has gradually lessened, and now little or none is grown. Tobacco took its place in those States, and Kentucky and Missouri became the hemp growing region; yet since the war, the product of this crop has decreased largely. More attention is given to flax, because of its finer fibre allowing it to be converted into a greater variety of articles of domestic use, and the seed being so profitable, vast quantities are sold for various uses, beside its oils. Even after the oil is extracted, the refuse, called linseed oil cake, brings high prices for fattening or feeding stock of all kinds. Its great value for this purpose is universally admitted.

From investigating several treatises upon hemp growing, we have collated the facts and statements reported by practical hemp cultivators, and we have arrived at the following conclusions.

PREPARATION OF LAND.

The soil for hemp must be a strong, deep, calcareous, warm, loamy and perfectly dry one, deeply and thoroughly prepared until in fine tilth, similar to the proper condition of land for tobacco.

PUTTING IN THE CROP.

The ground in nice condition, the seed should be planted as early as possible. Early sowing being best, as the lint will be heavier. Mark off the ground lightly with a plow or marker, so as to guide the sower. Then sow by hand broadcast, evenly at the rate of fifty pounds of seed per acre as the smallest quantity, up to seventy pounds, as the largest, according to the strength of the land. The

great object is to cover the land with as many plants as the land will sustain. If sown too thin on rich land the plants grow too large and the fibre too coarse, and if too thickly sown, the plants will be so short as to injure the value of the crop. In Kentucky, Virginia and Maryland, the time for hemp sowing is from the 1st to the 15th of April, the land ought to be broken up deeply in the fall or early part of winter before. Cover the seed with a light harrow, running it both ways. If the soil be moist the shallower it is put in the better, if it be dry, cover the seed a little deeper. If the weather be moist and warm, in a few days the seed will be up, and in a few more days the plants will cover the ground and grow rapidly until fit for

HARVESTING.

The time for harvesting is indicated by the change in the color of the leaves, from deep to pale green, and dropping the leaves, beginning to do so at the bottom and going on up the stalk. The male plants ripen ten days earlier than the female. So the harvest should be between the earlier and the later ripening. The male plant is covered with minute pods bearing pollen, which at maturity, burst and rises like a mist over the field. It used to be pulled up by hand, now it is cut with a knife, called the hemp-hook, to be obtained in the Kentucky hemp region. But of late, a hemp cutting machinery is attached to grain reapers, which greatly facilitates the cutting of the crop. It is then raked or pulled by a hook into small bunches like wheat, the leaves that are on the stalks are pulled or knocked off by the hook, the stalks tied in bunches the size of sheaves, with its own stalks. It is then put in shocks like corn, and tied at the top with its own stalks. Here it remains until the field has been secured. It is then put in barns or in ricks, or stacks, like wheat, to keep it dry and free from wet. We should have said that when first cut it must be left on the stubble thinly spread to dry and cause the leaves to readily part from the stalk before it is bound in bundles. In its harvest it is like hay-making. Good clear weather is required to have a fine bright stalk, and bad weather injures its value materially. After the stalks are dry no time must be lost to get it secured in the house or rick.

In these ricks or under cover it must be kept dry, until frost and settled cold weather comes. It is then taken back to the field and spread evenly so as to dew-rot. If there be much snow it will be all the better. When it is rotted enough, which is known by the fibre freely parting from the stalk; it is then again gathered in bunches but not tied, the bunches again shocked or stalked, and each shock tied firmly at the top. It is now ready for

BREAKING AND DRESSING.

The process of breaking and dressing may be performed in the field during good weather. The coldest and clearest weather is best suited for this, formerly laborious and tedious process. It is even now done in some places in Kentucky by the use of their peculiar *break*, costing about \$5, and which is moved from shock to shock. But we learn it is dressed mostly in a barn by machinery, adapted for the purpose, and is thus more effectually and economically prepared for market. Water-rotted hemp is far superior and brings higher prices than dew-rotted hemp. Russian hemp is the best in the world. Very soft water is required to water-rot hemp, hence there is but few places in this country where hemp can be perfectly water-rotted. The hemp grower looks to a cold snowy winter to get a fine, bright lint of high quality.

SEED.

Beginners ought to obtain their seed from some section where it is produced pure. The culture of the plant for seed is very different from growing it for its fibre. The grower must learn (which is easy to do by a little observation of the growing plants) to distinguish the male from the female. To grow the seed, the same condition of soil and preparation is necessary as described for the crop. But it is planted like corn four feet apart each way in hills, with seven or eight seeds to the hill. When it gets six or eight inches high, it is thinned to from three to four plants to the hill, with all the male plants pulled out, except here and there one left throughout the patch to impregnate the female plants. The seed when ripe is saved by the plants being cut off and taken to the barn, and when dried, beat out with a flail and winnowed. Hemp-seed raising is not much practiced except to sell or use as seed. It does not pay like flax seed, the culture of which we may hereafter speak, as we are favorable to a mixed system of husbandry, and like to see our people try the various industries both great and small, instead of confining themselves and risking their all in one specially, let it be what it may, unless it be grass-growing in connection with the dairy and stock breeding and grazing, or stall feeding for the shambles.

SCOTLAND contains 30,000 square miles, of which about 155,000 acres is taken up by inland lakes.—There are 787 islands off its coast, of which 186 are inhabited. The country is fast becoming a commercial, mining and manufacturing rather than an agricultural country.

Do not keep tribes of dogs and cats around the premises, who eat more in a month than they are worth all their life-time.

IMPROVING WORN OUT FIELDS.

At a recent meeting of the North Carolina Agricultural Society, held at Raleigh, N. C., Mr. T. A. Granger, submitted the following as his method of improving poor land:

I am satisfied the farmers in this section of country are doing a large amount of unnecessary labor in improving their poor worn out fields. After several years of hard labor in hauling dirt and composting my old worn out fields, I concluded to try some other way to improve my lands besides moving it in a dump cart from one point to another, and I adopted the following plan: In October 1871 I fallowed my experiment plot of seven acres with a two horse plow, and fallowed the same with a sub-soil plow 14 inches deep, leaving my lands in 20 feet beds. Then I seeded it in black oats, 2 bushels to the acre. The oats were only an average crop for the land, they ripened May 15th following. On the 25th of June I reversed the beds and seeded it in Cow-peas, at the rate of 1½ bushels to the acre. On the following October I gathered enough peas from the land to answer for seed and fallowed the vines and what green peas and other vegetable matter had grown upon the land. On the 15th October, 1872, I seeded the same land in black oats again and on the following May, harvested a very fine crop, double as much as I did the year before. In June I reversed the beds again, and seeded the same in cow peas, at the rate of 1½ bushels and the following October, I again gathered a large crop of seed peas, about 15 bushels to the acre, only taking the ripest for seed. I then fallowed the vines and green peas in, and seeded the land in black oats and clover on the following May 1874. I harvested a very large crop of oats, 38 bushels to the acre, and on the land now I have a fine crop of clover, and I believe when I get the next crop of clover it will pay me better than any other crop I have made on it, and with the clover fallow the second fall, will leave the land rich enough to produce one bale of cotton or 30 bushels wheat per acre. The land I made this experiment on was a poor worn out field I first in 1870 marled it, and put it in corn and peas; broadcast peas the last plowing, only making about two bushels of corn to the acre, fallowing what peas were on the land in; the land has been cleaned 50 years and was cultivated as long as it would produce anything. It was originally in long straw pine, with red clay sub-soil 5 inches from the surface.

FEEDING CATTLE AND HOGS TOGETHER.—A cor- of St. Henry, Ohio, in the *Western Rural*, replies to the inquiry, "What Ails our Cattle?" as follows:—"A farmer near this place had also a queer disease in his cattle; and as he solved it at last, I will tell you what the people think it was. Mr. R., of this place, had a lot of cattle and he also fed them in the same yard with some hogs, and they (the cattle) died one after another, until an old farmer told Mr. R. not to feed his cattle and hogs together in the same place. Mr. R. separated the hogs and cattle and that stopped the disease.

*Agricultural Calendar.***FARM WORK FOR DECEMBER.**

While we are reminded, by this last month of the year, to wish one and all most heartily a Merry and Happy *Christmas*, we take the liberty to ask you to review your labors of the year, add up your receipts and expenditures, estimate the value of the crops made, and the expenses attending each crop from the planting to its sale or consumption at home. You will then see wherein your management was successful, or what was the cause of failure. Your errors will be made manifest, for it is natural to man to err. Ask yourselves if you have diligently attended to your farm, if you have ignorantly or wilfully pursued a course of cultivation which in some crops or in all was wrong, and which caused failure, when success would have followed a different course. Ask yourself whether you did all you could to counteract the unfavorableness of the season, or gave up in despair, putting all the blame on the season, or may be the fertilizer you bought, but which could not act owing to the drought and your neglect at such a time in frequent stirring the soil to promote moisture and excite the active qualities of the fertilizer. These are some of the many questions the farmer should at this time of the year catechise himself with and determine to rectify, the coming year, his errors. One very important self-question should be, "have I availed myself of every opportunity, which occurred during the present year, of increasing the manure pile?" No soil can continue fertile unless periodically dressed with manures. Those elements of fertility which the crops take from the soil must be returned in some form, or sterility will take the place of fertility. A rigid self-examination will point out your mistakes and errors and remembering to avoid them, next year you will be laying a foundation for increased prosperity.

A word to the wise is enough, therefore we leave these suggestions and will talk with you as to the work to be done before the joyous holiday season comes on, which ends the year 1874.

ICE.

This important crop must be secured at the earliest moment, therefore have everything necessary for its procurement, ready when the ice king comes.

FATTENING HOGS.

Those hogs which are fat will gain but little weight by keeping them in cold weather, in proportion to the food they consume, as half of it goes to keep up the animal heat, and not in flesh or fat forming. It is economy therefore to kill all that

are fat enough, as soon as you can. Those that are left over ought to have extra care in food and attention to their cleanliness and comfort. Let them be kept warm and dry.

STOCK.

Stock of all kinds should be strictly looked after and regularly fed and watered with due allowance of salt or ashes sifted and mixed with salt, with a small portion of lime.

Beef cattle are much easier fattened if in comfortable stalls than running at large. Late calves require warm shelters and generous feeding. The owner should be on the alert to see that his hired men do not neglect the stock in bad weather, and in snow times, as is too often the practice in the country. The subordinates are taking their ease, and the stock are suffering, perhaps perishing, while the master is entertaining his friends, or is away from home indulging in his pleasures. At this season of the year, the eye of the master, or that of a faithful head-man or overseer, is all-important on a farm, and particularly in the stables and barnyard. About Christmas holidays the stock is made to suffer from neglect.

Milch cows may be kept up to a good yield of milk and butter, if they are well fed, comfortably sheltered, have plenty of pure water and slops, and allowed clean, dry resting places. A first class article of winter fresh butter is usually double the price of summer butter of like quality, or may be a trifle better, owing to the scarcity of the former. And it is certain that with proper management, prime winter butter may be made at a small cost and high profit. Any family can afford to feed well one or two cows and thus supply the household with rich milk and butter in abundance during winter, when, both seem peculiarly enjoyable.

FIRE WOOD.

Knowing the importance, on the scores of economy and comfort, we cannot help from urging, each year, the necessity of cutting one winter a full supply of fire wood for the next, so as to have it well seasoned. It takes less wood for the same amount of heat, is easily kindled; twice as much can be hauled at a load and more conveniently handled.

FENCES AND GATES.

Look over your fences and estimate the number of rails and posts you will require to make the new lines and repair the old ones. Get the logs out in the woods and stack them or haul them in place for the worm fences, and haul the rails and posts for post and rail fence, to some building where they can under cover from the weather, be worked into the proper shape for setting up next spring. At same place the hogshead hoops and staves may be got

out. Rainy weather and snows may be embraced for such work. Every farm ought to have a rough work shop away from other buildings, where a fire could be had without much risk. A stone or log chimney could be attached to it. A building 20 or 30 feet long, 8 feet high in front and 6 feet in rear, 10 or 12 feet wide, built entirely of plank, except the rafters, sills and plates, which would need to be only 4 inches square or 3 by 6 inches. It is cheap and easily built by any one who can use a saw and hatchet. Put the gates in order and substitute them for bars.

TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS.

Look over all the implements, and have them put in good order, and all locked up under cover, except those in daily use.

SLEIGHS.

The family sleigh and the farm sledge ought to be kept in good order, so they are ready for use the moment the snow falls deep enough for sleighing. The sledge is found some winters very useful, we one winter hauled 100 bushels of corn on one with four mules, to the mill fourteen miles distant, daily for ten days. They are excellent for hauling heavy timber to the saw mill.

YOUNG STOCK.

The young cattle should have a dry warm shelter, bedding, water and long food in plenty, salt often mixed with ashes. A good feed of bran or grain every night. Colts should have similar shelters, with good beds of leaves or straw, hay or fodder in plenty, and water three times a day. They should have a gallon of oats or half a gallon of hominy once a day, and handled, rubbed or carded, and haltered once or twice a day. This will make them gentle, hardy and thrifty. With this treatment they will grow to good size, be muscular and easily accustomed to harness or saddle. They should occasionally be led to water, and petted when they are fed with grain. Keep them from the cattle, and out of all danger from their horns.

SHEEP.

Attend to the sheep, and let them have shelters to protect them from storms and wet weather.— Let them have fodder and salt, pure water, and in hard weather or during snows, a gill of grain each per day, with bran and oats mixed, or corn, or corn and peas crushed like small hominy.

Mutton sheep should have turnips once a day, and grain or shorts twice a day, of each as much as they will eat clean. Hay or blade fodder in racks. Keep the floor of the sheds dry by the use of plenty of straw or leaves.

Ewes with young lambs, must be put away to themselves, and given plenty of turnips and a feed of oats or corn once a day.

CORN

ought to have been before this put in the crib, but if it has not been, you should be active and husk and loft it before Christmas. It is wasting every day, and in a short time it will all be damaged by the weather or destroyed by crows, squirrels and other depredators, including the two-legged thieves who call themselves freed-men of color, that steal rather than work, and have brethren of lighter complexion as receivers and accessories.

WORKING ANIMALS—HORSES AND OXEN.

Feed your working beasts well, keep warm and dry, and use the curry comb and brush or wisps of straw freely. Let them have salt, lime and ashes, equal parts, twice a week with water two or three times per day. The oxen and fat cattle should have cut corn stalks with the blades and husks, steamed and mixed with meal or rye chop and bran; the same may be given to the horses; but for them, hay or straw cut, and only moistened with water and a gallon of rye and corn meal mixed, to every bushel of cut straw. This is a good wholesome meal for a horse at night. A better feed is half a bushel of unthrashed oats, cut fine, moistened and mixed with a gallon of rye or corn meal, or the two mixed. Some persons feed their colts and calves with cut oats without dampening and without the meal, and look on it as an economical way of feeding out the oat crop.

MANURE.

Make opportunities to start the carts and wagons, hauling leaves, mould from the woods, marsh mud, tussocks, turf from fence rows, ditch banks, saw dust, if to be had convenient, scrapings from around the barn doors and sills, and any and everything which will absorb the urine and make manure, spread it over the barn yard and hog yards with a dressing of plaster weekly, and be assured that the time so occupied will pay in the long run better than any other employment, for the same length of time, on the farm. The yards should be covered a foot deep with these materials three or four times during winter and next spring, when you turn it all over, you will have a valuable, never-failing bank, which will pay you high for your trouble, instead of your paying exorbitant interest as you do, if you go to other banks for money. The farmer should look only to this bank to draw upon, and he will be prosperous. The corporate banks will ruin him. The great Lord Bacon wrote: *The improvement of the ground is the most natural obtaining of riches; for it is our great mother's blessing, the earth; but it is slow.* And yet, where men of great wealth do stoop to husbandry, it multiplieth riches exceedingly.

GARDEN WORK.

WORK IN THE GARDEN FOR DECEMBER.

This is a month of leisure to the country gardener, who keeps a garden only or chiefly for the family use. But little work is to be done if our directions for last month have been followed. If not, you will best go on and do what was left undone. Drain the wet and spade deep the stiff places in the whole garden. Dress the asparagus and strawberry beds, or, if the ground cannot be worked, mulch the strawberry vines, also the herbs, and the bushes of small fruits. If the weather permits, dig up the unoccupied beds and leave them in the rough, manure with rotted manure as you dig and sow some plaster and salt over them.

Repair the garden fence if necessary. Trim off any dead branches of the small fruits, and tie up or support with stakes, such as are likely to be injured by the winter winds.

Put all the tools in good order and in a safe dry place. See that the plants in the frames or under shelter of bush, straw or fodder, are doing well.—The cold frames require almost as much attention this month as they do in spring time.

Prepare frames, some with glass, and some with oiled cotton in lieu of glass; set them over a bed of strawberry plants, bank up around with manure, work the vines and fill in between them with coarse stable manure packed down; water occasionally and you will have strawberries in March or April. A hundred plants would give a fair supply for a family, or a nice little sum if sold. Mr. Meehan, the distinguished pomologist and horticultural writer sees no reason why we should not produce strawberries in early-spring, in abundance, at a comparatively small cost, for family supply and with profit for market.

Cold Frames.—The use of frames in gardening is becoming general and defying the rigors of winter, create an artificial summer, to such an extent that when we sit down to dinner with fresh flowers as ornaments, and the summer fruits and vegetables fresh, and almost as high flavored as when grown naturally in the open air, we for the moment almost believe it is summer, and do not realize the fact that the earth is bound with frost and that it is the harvest time for ice.

The management of these cold frames and forcing beds is an interesting employment, occupying only a few minutes, two or three times a day, and we would think would be attractive to country gentlemen, as they have little of pleasant occupation out doors to while away the dullness generally attending rural winter life. What house plants and flowers are to the ladies, hot beds and cold frames should be to the gentlemen of a country household. The practice once begun and practical knowledge obtained, we feel sure would not be soon or lightly abandoned.

Protecting Manures.

The *Rural New Yorker* replies to a correspondent who seeks information on this subject, as follows:—"You are correct in saying that a large proportion of farmers do not house their manure.—But it is equally true that thereby, when they let it lie under the stable windows until it is decomposed they lose from one-third to one-half its value. We know of no way to prevent this waste. If the same men knew they were being defrauded of the same amount of money they lose in this way, by some "middlemen," they would raise a terrible hubbub; but so long as they don't know this and are alone responsible for their loss we do not know that it is anybody's business but their own. Some of them do not believe they lose anything. But if you have manure, house it—protect it from sun and storm and mix absorbents enough with it to prevent the escape of gases during the process of decomposition. It will pay you."

On this same subject the *Philadelphia Press* says:—"At various times, we have pointed out to our readers the profits resulting from covering manure, instead of allowing it to get soaked by the rains or dried by the sun, as is generally done.—We have given this advice from what we have actually seen. When rough sheds have been built to cover the manure heap, the crops fertilized by this rule have been increased in productiveness sufficient to pay for the shed covering the first year.

The *Journal of Chemistry* writing on the preservation of manures, says:—"It often happens that farmers are limited as regards room for the storage of manures under cover, and the question arises, What is the best method of preserving animal excrement in the open field? It should be understood that if we introduce safe guards to prevent loss in two directions, we accomplish all that is necessary. Animal manures may be weakened by loss of volatile ammonia, and other gaseous products, and leaching, by which the most valuable soluble salts are dissolved by rains and carried away. To prevent the loss of ammonia it is only necessary to cover the heap with good soil or loam to the depth of eight or ten inches. Previous to putting on the soil, a bushel of plaster or gypsum may advantageously be sprinkled over the heap. The whole mass should be perfectly covered, so that no avenues of escape are afforded to the volatile products. In this way, the soil becomes in a few months so saturated with fertilizing material that it is a valuable agent to apply to crops in itself."

Keep an account of farm operations.

For the Maryland Farmer.

The Most Economical Use of Stable Manure.

I am satisfied that the value of many very useful, practical articles, written for Agricultural journals, is often lessened in a great degree by being untimely, or out of season. e. g. Articles on preparing land for, and seeding with winter grains, if published in winter or spring, are lost sight of on account of their unseasonableness: the same is true of crops to be planted in spring, if instructions appertaining to them are published in autumn.

Acting on the facts above presented, I have endeavored to select a subject that shall be opportune, if it should appear in your issue of this month or next. I am thoroughly convinced that a very large proportion of the manurial value of the excrement of animals stabled, and the bedding, or absorbents used in stables and cattle yards, is wasted ere they reach the field.

The avenues of waste are numerous, and have been so often reiterated by agricultural writers, that I shall eschew their consideration in this connection, and pass directly to the well established advantages derivable from the application of stable manure direct from the stables to sward fields; a course that I have recommended to a large number of my clients, who have informed me that the result has been uniformly, most satisfactory.

THE BENEFITS OF THIS SYSTEM

are first, that the hauling may be done at a season that the teams have least to do generally, and when they can perform the largest amount of labor with the least fatigue, and in latitudes where frosts are sufficient, the surface of the ground is solid, on which to haul; second, the wages of laborers are usually less than during the warm season; third, there is no water, other than the urine of the animals, to be hauled; fourth, there is no waste from washing and draining out soluble matter, but all goes direct to the field, where that portion of the manure already soluble may be absorbed by the soil, and where it will nourish vegetation as soon as the season arrives for growth; fifth, it mechanically benefits the grass plants by protecting them from the destructive effects of repeated alternate freezing and thawing; sixth, it causes the germination of weed and grass seeds lying near the surface of the ground, which would not vegetate, but for the protection and nourishment supplied by the mulching.

THE EFFECTS OF THE SIXTH CHARACTERISTIC.

By promoting the growth of existing grass plants, forming the sward on which the manure is applied, a large increase in the value in said grass is produced, whether it is turned in, mown, or pastured.—

The weed seeds germinated, and plants grown by the application of manure, in the manner, and at the season recommended, adds, to the vegetable matter to be turned in, and weeds thus grown, which would otherwise lie dormant until more congenial circumstances would cause them to grow with some cultivated crop, from the value of which they may materially detract, or they may produce increased labor in the culture of hoed crops.

Manure applied as recommended, on land to be plowed the following spring, if the land is not tramped nor pastured, may often be made to grow on the soil, an additional value of vegetable matter to be turned in, fully equivalent to that applied, which is a process of obtaining fertilizing material, far less expensive than any other known to the writer.

WINTER MULCHING PASTURE LAND WITH STABLE MANURE.

In case it is desirable to apply the manure from the stables on land designed to be pastured the following season, I have adopted a course which I shall describe, with great satisfaction. The annual weeds are many of them earlier than the grasses, and if they are allowed, by keeping off the stock until a late turning out season, to grow and set for seeding, and are then mown down and are allowed to remain on the ground as a mulch, the grass, though some of it may have been cropped off in cutting the weeds, will outgrow the weeds, and its growth being promoted by the mulch, both that applied from the stables and that from the mown weeds, will develop astonishingly, and the yield of pasturage will be very satisfactory. Manure applied in this way, on land to be pastured a year or more before it is to be turned in, will be found vastly more profitable than that turned in the first spring after it has been applied.

J. WILKINSON, Baltimore, Md.

DESTROYING CATERPILLARS ON FRUIT TREES.—

Mr. J. Weidenmann, New York, the landscape gardener, tells us that at various trials he has found that the most effective way of destroying caterpillars on fruit trees is by means of a long pole, to the end of which a whisk of straw is fastened.—Moisten the straw in a solution of soft soap, for which process either water or lye may be used.—Merely touch the insects that thus settle in and about the angles of the branches and you will have them all killed.

THE Canadian way of measuring a tree is said to be as certain as it is grotesque. You walk from the tree, looking at it from time to time between your knees. When you are able to see the top of a tree in this way, your distance from the root of the tree equals its height.

For the Maryland Farmer.

PEACH CULTURE.

BY D. Z. EVANS, JR.

The experiences of the last two or three years have nearly disheartened peach growers, causing many to either abandon their orchards and trusting to luck for a crop, not caring to risk the labor and expense attendant on their proper cultivation, or have torn them out entirely, devoting the land to other and better paying crops. Yet, while a large class of fruit growers are doing this, there are still very, very many others who are planting out large plantations of peaches, thinking that when all the old orchards are torn out theirs will be just in their prime and will be a source of large revenue.

I well know climate has much to do with the success or failure of the peach, but the main cause of so many heavy failures in this business may, I think, be readily traced to planting far more than can be properly cultivated and handled, not to mention the carelessness with which they are planted. Some, and in fact very many, would-be peach culturists, argue that if one acre brings so much clear profit, one hundred acres will return one hundred times as much, not taking into consideration the fact that it takes nearly or quite a hundred times as much capital and labor to run the large plantation of trees as the small one.

Another great trouble is, that trees are planted in soil which often is not in proper order for their reception, and even if they do live, they do not return a fair profit, often being a total failure instead. I know this fact from experience as well as observation.

A thing to be avoided in setting out a plantation of peach trees, and in fact, any other kind of fruit, is to avoid planting too many varieties, especially if the area planted be small. Many enthusiastic peach growers, young in the business, have stranded on this rock, and many others will do it, despite the admonitions of those who have been severely pinched thereby.

With peaches, rather than with most other kinds of fruits, I consider it a very good policy to make your selection of varieties so as to cover the whole season, especially if you expect to have fifty or a hundred acres or more, for it would be very inconvenient to be obliged to send away your pickers, after the early crop was off, to await the ripening of the later varieties, and, besides, you might be at loss to get any to pick for you at the end of the season. A regular succession of varieties keep the hands fully employed all the time.

Low prices for this fruit is often tracable to

carelessness in picking, packing and marketing.—The cost of transportation is not a cent more for good, nicely packed fruit, than it is for poor fruit, per basket, while the difference in price is readily appreciated by the producer. No matter how much of a glut of poor fruit there may be in the market, good sized fruit, neatly put up, will command a ready sale and at paying prices. Let only the best fruit be marketed, and the ordinary fruit kept for home use, for drying, &c. By the ordinary fruit I mean the small sized fruit, which is equally as good tasted and healthy, but does not suit the epicurean tastes of the citizens, so, consequently, does not influence the contents of their pocket-books.

What I would like to urge on all farmers and fruit growers is, more care and more system.—There was a time when ordinary management would suffice to get the wherewith to clothe and nourish, but that time has past long ago, and we must systematize and use carefuleass in all departments to enable us to make a competency, with all the opposition and the low price of produce and disproportionate rates of wages which the farming interest is compelled to bear.

Let care and system be the watchwords, and, though the change in our receipts *may* be slow, they *will* be sure. One swallow does not make a summer, nor does one little effort alone achieve success.

Peas Three Thousand Years Old.

In the course of late explorations in the ancient ruins of Egypt, General Anderson, an English traveler, found inclosed in a sarcophagus beside a mummy, a few dry peas, which he preserved carefully and, on his return to Great Britan, planted in the rich soil of the Island of Guernsey. The seeds germinated, and soon two little plants appeared, from which, at maturity, sufficient peas were gathered to plant quite a large tract of ground in the following season.

Some of the plants thus raised have attained a hight of over six feet, and have been loaded with blossoms of exquisite odor, and of a delicate rose tint. The peculiar feature of the growth is the stem, which is small near the root but increases in size as it ascends, requiring a support to sustain it up-right. The pods instead of being disturbed around all portions of the stem as in the ordinary plant, are grouped about the upper extremity.

The vegetable, it is said, belongs to the ordinary garden variety; but from its presenting the very distinctive differences aboved noted, it seems worthy of close botanical examination. The peas are of remarkable fine flavor, excelling in delicacy those of the choicest known varieties.—*Scientific Amer.*

GRUEL FOR A GRUMBLER.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

I have read with great pleasure the article in your July number, entitled "A Growl from a Grumbler." His views are exactly in accordance with my own. When we open an agricultural paper, we expect to see what is instructive and useful to us, as farmers of the present day; for instance, like the paper of A. H. Halstead, with the cut of his "poultry mother," the article by F. G. on "Raising Clover Seed," the article on the "Colorado Potato Bug," the comparative value of Herefords and Devons, by John Merryman; on "Grass Seeding," by J. Wilkinson, and such like papers.—Like your "Grumbler," I am really tired of *Merino* sheep breeders among the ancients "four thousand and four years before Christ," (4004 years,) ages before our improved Cotswolds and Southdowns were known of.

Great improvement must have been made in "Merinos" since seventeen hundred and sixty years before Christ (1760 years,) when Rachael was Shepherdess for her father Laban; for we have seen nothing from the Patriarchs about the weight of the fleeces of these wonderful Merinos; but now that we have turnpike roads and Macadamised avenues, affording plenty of dirt and dust to lodge in the oily wool of this astonishing breed of sheep, the "Merinos," we hear of weights of thirty-five pounds and even over fifty pounds to the fleece.

Who will tell us what the loss is in washing one of those fleeces, and what is really the net weight of one of them? and what is the comparative value in our markets of the "Merino" and "Combing" wools. These are questions in which every sheep raiser, North and South, is interested, answers to which I believe will please your "Grumbler."

SHEEP BREEDER.

From the French of *Le Journal d'Agriculture Pratique*, Paris, July 2nd.

Fraud in Commercial Manures.

At the end of the last winter I received under the name of *phosphate*, a product of a gray color, oily to the touch, of which I was asked to make an assay: this furnished me ten degrees or better, 10 per cent. of ammoniacal precipitate: this precipitate, more or less white ordinarily, was this time so brown that I believed it necessary to specially separate the phosphoric acid, of which, to my astonishment, I found not a trace.

This is the result of my analysis:

Water	1.10
Silica	65.20
Alumina	20.40
Oxide of Iron	7.60
Magnesia	4.13
Phosphoric Acid	
Lime, loss, etc.	1.57
	100.00

I call the attention of cultivators as well as competent tribunals, to this shameless commerce.

ALBERT ROUSSILLE,

Prof. Chemistry National School of Grandjonan.

Although complaint is made by the Professor of the defective system in Franch, relating to the sale of commercial manures, the simplicity of the above exposure is plain: a lot is put on the market; a sample is sent to a Professor in one of the national institutions, an analysis made and the result published in the agricultural press for a warning.

Schools are established in various parts of France by the government, not to make money, but to assist in cases like the above in the exposure of fraud and the advancement and improvement of the interests of farmers, where circumstances render such assistance necessary. *

For the Maryland Farmer.

The Tobacco Crop of 1874 in the Connecticut Valley.

During the early part of the season the crop made a slow and stunted growth, and as late as the first of August a large proportion of the fields were very unpromising.

The favorable weather however of August and September brought the crop forward, and when harvested, if the yield was not large, the crop was well matured, and when cured will be of an excellent quality.

The acreage was but little more than one-half the average for the last decade of years, and the aggregate yield will fall below one-half.

Most of the crop has been sold while hanging upon the poles, to parties from New York and Baltimore, prices ranging from 20 to 30 cents per pound, which will make it a paying crop to the grower, and encourage him to engage more extensively in its culture the coming season.

LEVI P. WARNER,

Sunderland, Mass.

AMERICAN WHEAT CONSUMED IN ENGLAND.—

During the first eight months of the present year England has drawn from the United States more than half the entire amount of wheat that she has been obliged to import, the amount being 58 per cent. We furnished her in the first eight months of last year 42½ per cent. of her entire importations of this cereal. During that time Russia furnished 24½ per cent., her contribution this year falling to 11 per cent. From British North America only 5½ per cent. was drawn in the first eight months of the year, the amount for the corresponding time this year being 9 per cent. These figures show at a glance the growing importance of the United States as a source of supply for breadstuffs.

For the Maryland Farmer.

A CHEAP CONDUIT PIPE.

Having often found it difficult and expensive to obtain pipes for sewerage purposes, in improving country places, I devised a substitute that I could construct on the spot by unskilled laborers, and of any dimensions required.

My experience with the use of the substitute has been so satisfactory that I have decided to give it to the public, and to enable any one to construct a conduit or small sewer, without calling to their aid an Engineer or Landscape Gardener, I have prepared plain illustrations of the mode of construction to accompany the description. Fig. 1. repre-

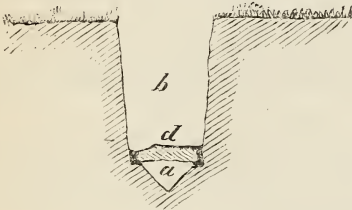


FIG. 1.

sents a cross section of a ditch and a conduit. The dimensions and proportions represented are as follows. The ditch is two feet in width at the surface of the ground, and one and one-half feet at the bottom, and three feet in depth. Having excavated a ditch of these dimensions, the conduit, or sewer, is to be excavated in the bottom in the form shown at "a." A margin of three inches of the level bottom of the ditch, on either side of the conduit, is preserved, these ledges or shoulders form continuous abutments on which to rest the flags "d" used for covering. The banks, or walls of the conduit, are covered with one coat of good hydraulic, cement mortar, five-eighths to three-fourths of an inch in thickness, and the cement coating is extended over on each shoulder, to give a bed for the flags. It is generally desirable to supply sewers for the waste liquids of dwellings, with a trap, to prevent the circulation of air in them.

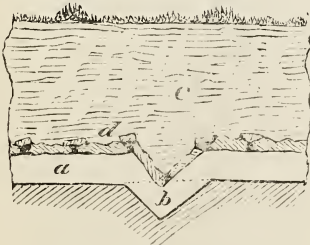


FIG. 2.

Fig. 2, represents a longitudinal section of a ditch and conduit, with a trap, as I construct them.

Water stands perpetually in the trap "b" to the height shown by the dotted line; "a" represents the conduit; "d" the flag covering, and "c" the bank, or wall of the ditch. I frequently use very rude flags without dressing the joints. The irregular spaces between them are effectually and very economically closed by bedding in cement small stones, or spalls over them, and plastering them over so as to close all openings, to exclude roots and vermin. I have found it better to use one or two joints of pipe at the discharge end of these conduits, where they discharge on the surface of the ground, or in a stream, as the action of the frost on the surface of ground cracks the cement and impairs the pipe. I prefer iron pipes for this purpose, as terra cutta is liable to be broken if exposed. In the absence of cast iron pipes, I have substituted galvanized sheet iron. The end of the sheet iron pipe which is to be joined to the V shaped cement conduit is readily bent into a triangular form to suit the cement pipe, and by bedding it in the ditch in a bed of cement mortar one inch in thickness, and coating the entire exterior of the pipe with a like thickness of mortar, I find that it is equally as good as the cast pipe, and not one-fourth of the cost.

Fetid "*slop holes*" near dwellings often generate malaria, and nothing about a house is more offensive to the eye of a person of cultivated taste than such relics of barbarism.

I sincerely hope that I shall see my cheap sewer generally adopted, and if all the refuse liquids of the rural dwelling are discharged into a properly arranged sewer, and the waste water from the roof, or the overflow of the cistern is disposed of in the use of the same sewer, and the discharge is conducted to a proper place, and used for irrigating land in grass, the cost of construction may soon be derived from the increase of production.

J. WILKINSON,

Landscape Gardener, Baltimore, Md.

THE PEANUT CROP.—For the year ending September 30th, the people of the United States consumed 580,000 bushels of peanuts. Tennessee furnished 185,000 bushels, Virginia 225,000, North Carolina 60,000, and the rest, 125,000 bushels, was imported from Africa. The maturing Virginia crop is said to be large, probably about 350,000 bushels, while the new North Carolina crop is estimated at 120,000 bushels.

Use money judiciously and do not attend auction sales to purchase all kinds of trumpery because it is cheap,

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Agriculture in France and Belgium.

PARIS, FRANCE, Nov. 12th, 1874.

BELGIUM.

Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

Having an opportunity to send you a few lines of agricultural matters and news in this region, I herewith submit my budget.

First, let me give you a brief account of the International Agricultural Meeting at Brussels in Belgium.

Perhaps an idea of the way they do it here may throw a little light on the way to do it there, for as we are a thousand years in advance of your still unbroken wood lands, we feel like giving you a few lessons sometimes, and as you are smart scholars, I have no doubt it will not be long before you surpass all your teachers in the highway of agricultural progress.

Belgium is a country, which as you are aware, has been largely reclaimed from the sea: it has rendered its marshes healthy, covered them with rich harvests, and in irrigation applied to meadows and labor to the land subdued, exhibits not an exhausting but an ameliorating culture: industry, railroads, canals, roads, outlets, everywhere: among the governed and the governing all over is seen a noble emulation to develop—each in his sphere of action and by a happy accord of individual and governmental initiative—the progress which an enterprising population attach to the native soil.

At this grand Fair there were 600 horses, 500 cattle, nearly 300 sheep, besides fowls, plants and implements: here were engines, (portable) thrashing machines, mowers, reapers, implements of tillage and farm work: sent by manufacturers from Germany, England and France.

The legislative Chambers voted 75,000 francs (\$15,000,) the Province of Brabant, 5,000, and the city of Brussels 5,000: it will be seen each one brought his stone to the edifice: in your recent State Fair, did the legislature of your State and Baltimore city contribute to make it a comprehensive and successful affair?

The horses represented every variety in ordinary use: here were the hardy artillery horse, the heavy massively formed draft horse, and the English crossbreds (horses of luxury,) admired for their rapidity and beauty of form.

Among the cattle the Flemish and Dutch milk races held first rank: notwithstanding the impression which the Durham blood has made on the native cattle, it can be seen that Belgium remains true to her devotion to her old improved stock, submitting to the new comers with exceeding prudence.

Sheep—those nomadic, primitive, patriarchal things; those children of the high mountain and the vast plain—it will be seen are not the best adapted to the low flat, rich pastures, and the confinement of animals on smaller enclosures, which follows a highly improved system of cultivation, and although there was a considerable number on exhibition they were not offered to prove that Belgium is a sheep country.

AGRICULTURAL STATIONS.

We have here experimental stations (similar to your Agricultural Colleges) supported by government: at the Brussel's Fair the Station of Gembloux had on exhibition a beautiful collection of cultivated plants growing in different nutritive solubory.

This Station was established by an association of cultivators, and is assisted by the government: it controls fertilizers, and in this manner protects the farmers from frauds: more about these Stations hereafter.

The King of Belgium paid a lengthy visit, and made a close investigation of the whole field of the exhibition without haste or tumult, as suits a sovereign associating freely among the greatest interests of his country.

Exhibitors and spectators crowded around the royal party and they had difficulty in restraining the people: "let them come," said the King: "it is not they who disturb us, but we who disturb them."

Were the President of your country, the Governor of your State, and the Mayor of your city, present at your State Exposition, making minute examinations of the articles on exhibition, circulating freely among the people, talking to them, encouraging them, and calling them benefactors of the race, and dispensing those smiles and kind words which come with especial force and influence from those who wear the mantle of authority? the higher the summit of departure of an object the greater its impression on the object below: a look or word of good cheer sent from the summit of power will sink deep enough sometimes to lay a foundation for a superstructure which storms and time can never destroy.

And what gem in a Ruler's brilliant collection shines more brightly than grace and favor to struggling merit?

I intended in this letter to say something about the famous Prof. G. Villes remarks and theory: he was present at the Capital and illustrated his ideas, of which it will give me pleasure to write at some future time: I fear my letter is already too long for you and I will close: permit me to enclose to you an article from our agricultural press, which appears to me to be of value: it is "La Retrogradation des Phosphates Schubles, dans les super phosphates employes en agriculture." This is a chemical treatise and would be too technical for general reading in your magazine, and as it is a record of analysis by the author himself, your Prof. of Chemistry in the college doubtless would be pleased to receive it.

I am pleased to see the interest you take in French agricultural literature, as exhibited in your frequent translations, and shall be happy to forward you any news that would be of advantage to your readers.

Yours, truly, LE MAYNE,

STONE ROADS.

We submit below a letter from the Chairman of the Committee appointed by the State Agricultural Society to investigate the Public Road question of Maryland, and report a proper system for the management of our highway interests. The other members of the committee are Dr. M. Merryman, E. J. Hall, Gen. Geo. H. Steuart, and Dr. W. S. McPherson: we hope the committee will also secure the assistance of William Webster of Baltimore county, whose varied experience, and extensive knowledge in the theory, system, practice, legislation, opposition, &c., of road repairing, would be exceedingly valuable.

CLARKSVILLE, MD., September 21st, 1874.

To the Editors of the *Maryland Farmer*.

I have come across, in a French paper, an article upon one of the most important questions at present agitating the minds of intelligent farmers and agricultural engineers: it contains so much good doctrine and so many good suggestions, that I translate it entire, that your readers also may have the benefit of what good there is in it.

TOLL GATES ON HIGHWAYS.

This writer's position, that toll gates on the public highways are serious obstacles to the development of the rural districts, is undeniably true: gentlemen doing business in the city are unwilling to subject themselves to heavy and constant toll-burdens by building in the country, and these toll-houses dam back into the city the living flood that would otherwise flow out and possess the goodly country: our people however have not yet adopted a system of highway repair, neither have they yet reached that high stage of the appreciation of free travel, to enable them to dispense with the necessary evils of toll gates: a proper system of road repair however would make free, and good travel, and it would be greatly to the advantage of both city and country to adopt such a system: that this will come in the future—let us hope the *near* future—I have no doubt.

POWER STONE BREAKERS.

The other suggestion in regard to the purchase of stone breakers by the authorities and their use by certain parties without cost, in connection with his statement of such actual purchase by the Canadian authorities, will no doubt excite great interest, and the result of such use be eagerly looked for.

It will at first strike many as impracticable with us: so much corruption characterizes the management by our public officers of the enterprises entrusted to them, that we have grown into a chronic unwillingness to permit them to disburse one cent more of the peoples money than is actually necessary: if any public improvement is undertaken we await, as if a natural consequence, the charge of corruption against the managers: but this state of things exists simply because apathy and party spirit prevent that union of good men acting together for the purification of the political atmosphere; but why could not a hundred of these machines be set to work this winter over all Maryland, to fill up the

awful chasm that yawns between her weakness and her poverty, and the land of promise and progress?

I believe, from my own investigations, by a proper administration of our public affairs, this could be done, and at the same time reduce the aggregate expenditure.

Is it not time that the men of Maryland should act upon the counsel so boldly and truly, and persistently given by both the able exponents of enlightened agricultural sentiment in the State, the Maryland agricultural press?

Is it not time that we should spend on our needy disgraceful country roads the money which has heretofore gone through improper channels into improper pockets?

I do not say these machines ought to be bought; I only urge the inauguration of such a state of things that the people shall be enabled to prosecute such enterprises as are necessary to their welfare and happiness without encountering the successful opposition of unscrupulous politicians, whose ability is conspicuous in laying heavy taxes upon the people, and yet attempt to collect them by exempting the whole State from taxation. Let the hot conflagration of club and grange and union spread: fire is a disinfectant.

Very truly yours,

— DAWSON LAWRENCE.

*Translated from French of L'Agricote
of Montreal, for the Maryland Farmer.*
STONE ROADS.

The want of good roads for several months in the year, is one of the greatest obstacles to the development of our country districts. With an argillaceous soil like that which prevails in so many sections, it is impossible to have passable roads during the wet season, unless we have recourse to the stoning of the roads, or the Macadam system.

We have already some Macadamised roads built by companies which collect tolls for their profit, but the number of these roads is very limited, because capitalists will stone only the most frequently traveled routes to get large dividends, and besides, we want free roads for a thriving agriculture.

If farmers would stone their own roads, in accordance with the municipal law, they would not suffer the obstacles of toll gates, and would keep in their own pockets the benefits realized by the companies. [We will add also that they would have hard roads where they will never have them if they wait for capitalists to build them.]

We do not desire in any manner to assail these companies, directed often by men who have in view the public interest: upon the contrary we admit that they have been a great advantage, particularly in a period in which the cultivator had a horror of every idea of public enterprise and progress: but we think we have reached the time when it is necessary to replace the privilege of obstructing bridge and road by toll houses, by a uniform system of free circulation.

To reach this point it is necessary that the agricultural classes should be imbued with the importance of these improvements, and take this ground without hesitation: we must have stone roads, however, and it is better to see them constructed by companies of honorable speculators, than not to have them at all.

As for the stoning of the roads, this is much less difficult and costly, since the legislative course adopted at the last session of the Parliament of Quebec.

It is known that at this last session, the local government obtained a credit from the Legislature to the amount of \$8,000, to import two stone breakers (machines) from Europe, designed for municipalities, or companies that wish to undertake the work of stoning the roads.

The authorities thought that the introduction of these machines would be approved by all the country, and that from all sides there would be haste to profit by them.

The first of these machines having cost more than \$4,000, that is to say more than half of the amount authorized, the authorities thought they could not buy the second for fear of stepping over the limits of the legislative appropriation.

This delicacy upon the part of the provincial administration has had the double result of avoiding an infraction of the law (light it is true,) and of permitting some experience before greater expenditure.

No doubt the success attained by this first machine will induce the government to bring over or make a greater number.

The municipalities, on a demand addressed to the Department of Agriculture at Quebec, secure the use free, of one of these machines: as for companies for stoning the roads, they may also obtain them upon payment of a sum nearly nominal. The first written request will receive the preference.

The number of the demands already brought forth by the department we have mentioned, is such that the first machine will not be disposable before next May: however, we strongly advise the municipalities to send their orders just the same: it is important that Parliament should be informed of our good intentions. The amount of the appropriations voted at the next session will naturally be based on the number of these orders.

There is no doubt of the utility of these machines: experience has demonstrated their excellence: by ordinary means it costs \$9, to break a pile of stones, which can be broken with the machine for \$1.50, or \$2, at most.

We leave this question to the serious consideration and discussion of the friends of agriculture: any communication on the subject will be received and recognized.

—♦♦♦—
TO KEEP HERBS.—When herbs are hung up to dry in loose bundles, they soon lose their odor.—They should be thinly spread out, shaded from the sun, and when dried dressed together tightly, and put into paper bags. It is an excellent plan to strip off the leaves, rub them fine, and put them into wide-mouthed bottles labelled. Equal proportions of sweet marjorum, tarragon and sage, dried and rubbed together, and kept in a wide-mouthed bottle, make a good seasoning for soups and stuffings.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

Repair tools and buildings at proper time, and do not suffer subsequent threefold expenditure of time and money.

Ishmael Pacha—Imported Arabian Stallion.

It afforded us much pleasure, on a recent trip to Baltimore, to visit the stables of Col. William H. Jenifer, late of the Egyptian army, and to see his imported Arabian stallion, Ishmael Pacha. This superb animal exceeds in beauty of style and proportions anything we have ever seen of the equine race. He was bred on the Desert by Bedouin Arabs, from stock of Kochlarie Arabians, a branch of the great Anazale family from Nudjee, the centre of Arabia. He is as white as snow, silver mane and tail, perfect in form, style and action, and has all the traditional marks of the pure bred Arabians, which descended from Mohammed to the present Arabs.

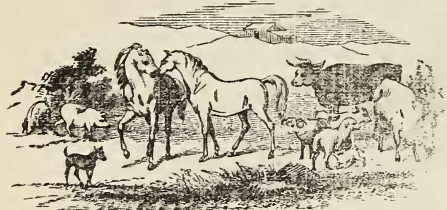
To the Arabs we owe the pre-eminence of our English thorough-bred, as also does the pure Percheron race in France, get much of its beauty and characteristic traits from the crossings of Arabian stallions with the native mares; thus forming a distinct race, which carries with it the Arabian head, neck, etc. M. de Beavis de St. Paul, in his historical essay on the Percheron race, attributes its beauty to its mixture with the Arabian race, and says: "A Percheron is an Arab grown up and modified by climate."

Col. Jenifer, with a number of American officers, were solicited by the Viceroy of Egypt to visit Arabia and instruct his army in the art of cavalry and other military accomplishments. After five years' service under the Viceroy, he, last fall, returned to his home in Baltimore. He informs us that the prejudice existing in that Mohammedan country against Christians was a great barrier to a successful education of their army in the modern discipline and tactics as practiced by our army, the Viceroy himself being almost the only official in favor of advancement in science. The Colonel considers it an almost hopeless task to attempt their education, regarding the best of them as little superior to our Southern negroes in their aptitude for learning.

On his return he obtained permission of his Highness, the Khedive of Egypt, to bring with him his fine specimen of the pure Arabian, as there are few in this country. This one we are sure cannot but be a great acquisition to our country for breeding, for, through the Darley and Godolphin, descended the best blood of England and America.—*J. J. P. in Practical Farmer.*

President Lewis says he has found as high as 30 per cent. of cream in the last pint of milk drawn from a cow; the first pint from the same cow had only 9½ per cent.

Live Stock Register.



COTSWOLDS IN SMALL FLOCKS.

Several months ago our valued correspondent Mr. Whittaker of Needham, contributed an article commending this breed of sheep to the notice of those farmers who can give them the care and attention needed for producing the best quality of wool. The following letter to the *Country Gentleman* upon the same subject, will be of especial interest to all who are engaged in the breeding of these beautiful animals:—

Mr. Thomas Whittaker of Boston, an "expert in wool matters and sheep growing," as the *New England Farmer* represents, after writing some sensible truths, says: "Bear this in mind, that the long-wooled sheep emit little yolk, and their wool does not shed the rain like Merino sheep, hence the necessity of having them housed during rains," &c.—Afterwards he says that roots are a remedy for the scab, and sheep are liable to diseases of the skin, also asking farmers to bear in mind that a "flock of thirty of these sheep is enough for one farm." I was raised in the midst of Cotswold sheep; Leicesters, Downs, &c., being also more or less kept in the vicinity; in fact one could not go out of doors without seeing double the above number of sheep in every field which had any in it at all, and it seems extraordinary to me to find it stated that thirty are enough for a farm.

Take Stow-on-the-Wold, on the Cotswold Hill, as a centre, start north and go fifty miles, and you will leave the Cotswold sheep behind, and get among Leicesters; go east and you will get the Oxford Downs and their crosses; go south, and Downs of the old, original breeds will be met with, and go west and southwest, and other varieties will be found. In either direction, twenty miles will take you off the Cotswold Hills (proper); although Stow is near the northeast borders, but should you go over the whole space indicated, there is not one farm in ten with less than 300 sheep upon it, and not one in the whole region with less than 100.—If the numbers are any smaller, it does not pay to have a shepherd (it is as much out of place to have sheep without a shepherd as a team without a carter,) and it must be recollected that these farmers rent the land, and make more from sheep than aught else. Talk about thirty sheep to the poorest tenant farmer in England, and he would laugh at the idea. Although shelter from winter weather and cold spring storms is necessary in northern climates here, yet in England, where, as every one knows it is raining twenty times as often as here, there is no

housing them during rains, for there are no houses for them; no barns or sheds of any kind for sheep on any of the common farms, and rarely any shed for the lambing month, an open yard or temporary pen being all that is provided to put the ewes in at night.

It is a pity such statements are made, because it discourages sheep husbandry. What can be done with only thirty sheep? Such a number would not be worth attention. It seems wonderful to me there are so many drawbacks mentioned in regard to sheep husbandry. I had never less than several hundred of sheep when in England, and never had any diseases of the skin, or any kind of check to prosperity with sheep, and never saw any casualties which could not be accounted for by bad management or from causes outside of any tendency to delicacy of condition in sheep, or liability to disease. Here in the United States I have had hundreds of sheep in my charge, and I positively declare there is no truth whatever in any statement about the sheep or wool being injured by rain in any mild weather, or any weather in mild climates. It is the coddling and close confinement which injures sheep. It is a common custom in some parts of England to soak and wash the sheep which have been lying in the turnip fields all winter, and to do this in March, or as soon as the muddy soil dries up so that the dirt can be cleaned out from the wool before it becomes dried in. These sheep suffer no inconvenience, for the wool soon dries next to the skin; and where any long-wooled or short-wooled sheep are fed regularly and have good shepherds in attendance, rain does not hurt them. In fact, I believe it is injurious to cattle as well as to sheep to be kept dry always, and I am quite sure that in any mild season, the very best provision for horses, cows or sheep, is a shelter which they can resort to just when they please.

Sheep are not at all liable to skin diseases unless mismanaged. Scab is easily cured by dressings of various kinds, but it is a contagious disease, and though no one knows better than myself how good roots are for sheep, I know they will not cure the scab. Rain does strong, healthy sheep good, and it is the alternate fattening and starving of sheep which causes cotted fleeces. They require one uniform kind of good treatment, so that there will be no sudden changes in their food or lodging. Some people think when change of food is recommended either in cattle or sheep, it means to give them one kind of food one week and a different kind another. The only change that does any good is a variety, and a change of any of the articles as occasion may demand, and which any one acquainted with them would see was necessary—not a change of dry, astringent food for a time, and then to soft, relaxing feed; and close confinement for one period, and then liberty for another while, for this is what would produce shocks to the animal system, and interfere with the even growth of a fine quality of wool.—Change only when necessary.—*New England Farmer*.

A New potato, known as the white queen (*reine blanche*) is being cultivated in France. In good soil, from ten to fifteen tubercles are formed, many of which attain or exceed the weight of 2.2 pounds. The flavor is said to be very fine. Planted in February or March, it becomes ripe in July.

Merino Sheep at the "New England Fair."

The editor of the *New England Farmer* who attended the recent New England Fair, says:—

As the different breeds of sheep appeared in their pens at the Fair, we do not wonder at the questions asked by the multitude, as they stopped for a moment to look at the little, dirty, inferior looking Merinoes. But upon a closer inspection of the real character of the breed, like the sober second thought in many other cases, one sees that outward appearances and first impressions sometimes mislead.

One of the exhibitors, and a successful competitor for the premiums in this class of stock, from Pomfret, Vt., after explaining the various differences and good qualities of the several breeds of sheep on exhibition, promised to give our readers a sketch of his experience in this much neglected branch of farming. The following is his communication:

The following is an account of a little of my experience in exhibiting Merino sheep at the late New England Fair. The sheep pens were well located, and visited by a large crowd of people.—Of these, I should judge that not one person in ten had ever seen a Merino sheep before. The following are some of the questions that were generally asked: "What are those animals?" or, "What kind of sheep are they?" "What are they good for?" "Will their wool make good cloth?" "Is their flesh good for food?" &c., &c. Other persons would exclaim, "What black looking things they are!" "What inferior looking animals!" "What do you keep such things for?" "I thought the breeding of such sheep was abandoned," &c.

Permit me to answer some of the foregoing questions through the *Farmer*. The Merino sheep, including their various families and grades, are the sheep which produce the universal clothing wool of the world, which clothing is not excelled for comfort, durability, variety of garments, and I believe that it excels in value all other clothing combined. A large proportion of the mutton consumed in the United States, is from sheep that are grade Merinos.

The dark color of the surface of the fleece is caused by the oil in their wool, which oil promotes and protects the growth of their wool, and it causes the dirt to collect on the outer surface instead of working into it, thereby keeping the inner portion clean. Why do gentlemen object to the dark color of our sheep, when they themselves wear coats of a much darker hue? Why do they speak lightly of, and defame, and attempt to detract from the merits of these sheep, when they are clothed almost entirely with garments manufactured from their wool? I will say, in conclusion, that the breeding of Merino sheep is not abandoned, nor do I think it will be until mankind cease to wear clothing.

The Eastern Pennsylvania experimental Farm has demonstrated by experiments that buckwheat bran is more valuable than wheat bran for the production of butter.

Long-wool Sheep on a Worn-out Farm.

Mr. R. G. Hill, in an address delivered before a farmers' meeting at Morrisville, Vt., upon Cotswold sheep and their value, said:

"We should constantly study the demands of the market. The scarcity of heavy mutton makes it always in good demand, and the demand is fast increasing.

The one great trouble in stocking the country with fine sheep, and supplying the demand both for wool and mutton, is the fear among many farmers of paying too much for them, though it is plain enough to be seen they are a great improvement over our common stock. Now let the farmer commence with a few of these sheep, and have his children share in the care and profit of them; they will soon feel an interest, and no longer think farming unprofitable. There is no employment on the farm so remunerative, and so attractive for children, as the care of lambs. The importance of improving worn-out pasture is apparent to every farmer. There is no way this can be done so easily as in keeping sheep; it will take but a few years to double its value.

The Cotswolds are just the kind to improve springy, swaley pastures. They will thrive on rank, coarse feed, bringing in the white clover, and doubling its value in a short time. It is generally admitted that sheep are the best stock that can be kept for the pasture; but knowing that it was generally considered that they were equal to cows to keep up the mowing, I determined to satisfy myself which was the best, and some ten years since, commenced feeding the hay on a small farm exclusively to sheep. This lot was in fair condition, yielding about one ton per acre. I let the sheep have the stable, spread the manure on the grass, going over one-half of it each year. The grass continued to increase until it yielded not less than three tons to the acre. The manure from this yield gave it a heavy dressing. For a year or two the grass has not been as heavy; the ground appears to be burnt with manure. Last spring I plowed a part of it to re-seed, and sowed it with wheat. It grew very rank, but the weeds grew ranker—such weeds as grow on very rich ground. This land has been dressed with clean manure from the stable, and the grass has been free from weeds. There had been no manure put on previous to plowing. That such weeds should grow on a sward well turned, shows the ground to be very rich.

The demand for good mutton is constantly increasing, and we think the mutton breeds will pay the best when they are kept in small flocks, and given that special attention required to produce the best animals."

CAUTION—BROOM-CORN.—Over 20 cows were poisoned to death by eating broom-corn in Boscobel, Wis. It was thought at first that the cows had been purposely poisoned by the owner of the broom-corn field, but on the following day a cow was purchased by the authorities and turned into the field. After eating five hills of the corn she dropped dead.

RULES FOR THE CARE OF SHEEP.

A circular issued by F. C. D. McKay, the General Agent of the American Emigrant Company, gives the following:

The company have already ten thousand sheep scattered among the farmers, who purchased land of them, in flocks ranging in size from fifty to two hundred head.

1. Keep sheep dry under foot with litter. This is even more necessary than roofing them. Never let them stand or lie in mud or snow.

2. Take up lamb rams early in the summer, and keep them up until December 1, following, when they may be turned out.

3. Drop or take out the lowest bars, thus saving broken limbs.

4. Count every day.

5. Begin graining with the greatest care, and use the smallest quantity at first.

6. If a ewe loses her lamb, milk her daily, for a few days, and mix a little alum with her salt.

7. Let no hogs eat with the sheep, by any means, in the spring.

8. Give the lambs a little millfeed in time of weaning.

9. Never frighten sheep, if possible to avoid it.

10. Sow rye for weak ones in cold weather, if you can.

11. Separate all weak, or thin, or sick, from those strong, in the fall, and give them special care.

12. If any sheep is hurt, catch it at once and wash the wounds, and if it is fly time, apply spirits of turpentine daily, and always wash with something healing. If a limb is broken, bind it up with splinters tightly, loosening as the limb swells.

13. Keep a number of good bells on the sheep.

14. Do not let the sheep spoil wool with chaff or burs.

15. Cut tag-locks in early spring.

16. For scours, give pulverized alum in wheat bran; prevent by taking great care in changing dry for green feed.

17. If one is lame, examine the foot, clean out between the hoofs, pare the hoofs if unsound, and apply tobacco with blue vitriol, boiled in a little water.

18. Shear at once any sheep commencing to shed its wool, unless the weather is too severe, and save carefully the pelt of any sheep that dies.

19. Have at least one good Work by you for reference. This will be money in your pocket.

Practice economy by giving stock shelter during the winter; also good food, taking out all that is unsound, half rotten, or mouldy.

USEFUL RECIPES.

WARTS ON HORSES LEGS.—Wm. Horne, V. S. in the *Country Gentleman* says:—The best method to remove an ordinary wart is, if small, to tie a thin strong cord close to the base, first running a darning needle through the very bottom, then tie under the needle. This is to prevent the ligature from slipping, or working to the top, as it would be very likely to do without this precaution. You may anoint it with any of the strong acids you please, but perhaps the best to cause exfoliation (sloughing), is butyr of antimony. Touch the whole surface of the wart several times during the day. If the warts are very small, excise them with a sharp knife, then cauterize them with hot iron.

GRIPES, OR COLIC.—Give to the horse a pint of port or claret wine, with a small nutmeg grated fine, and half a spoonful of powdered ginger, and well mixed, and given rather hotter than lukewarm. The best method is to get ready some boiling hot water, then put the nutmeg and ginger, together with a little loaf sugar, into a vessel, and pour the hot water upon them, and cover it for three minutes; then add the wine, and give this dose to the horse pretty warm.—It generally gives relief in a short time.

CAKED UDDER.—The following treatment is said to be good:—The best remedy we ever tried was to bathe it thoroughly and persistently with tepid water, and milking clean. Some use salt and water, others salt and vinegar, but we doubt whether they have any advantages over the pure water. The udder at such times is, of course, inflamed, and persistent application of water will reduce the inflammation, enabling you to draw the milk. It may require several bathings to entirely remove the cake, but we are confident that three times out of four it will prove successful.

INFLAMMATION OF THE UDDER.—This is always more or less manifested in the first stage of lactation and quite often destroys the usefulness of a portion of the organs. The milk should, at first, be drawn away as often as three times a day, and always as clean as possible. The feed should be light, with plenty of water, until feverishness has entirely subsided, when a liberal course of feeding should be gradually adopted.

HEN LICE ON CATTLE.—Take one or two teaspoonfuls of arsenic, and dissolve in a pail of soft water.—Apply with a sponge or brush. Keep the animal from exposure to cold, and keep the head tied up so as to prevent the animal licking its body.

WIND SUCKING.—This is a habit arising from the animal being confined in the stable, and not having sufficient exercise. The only remedy is a broad leather strap buckled around the throat tight enough to prevent bending the neck.

HEALING A BRUISE.—Bathe the swollen part with the following, several times a day. Acetate plumbi, 1 oz., in 1 quart of rain water. If the part is bruised apply carbolic acid, 1 oz., and 2 oz. of water.

COLIC.—Give from 1 to 2 oz. of tinct. opium in 1 pint of raw linseed oil. If not relieved, repeat the dose in one hour.

NEW OATS.—All new hay or oats is liable to produce colic or scouring, when first fed, and care should be taken to feed sparingly.

CAROLINA POPLAR.



William Parry of Cinnaminson, New Jersey, in speaking of this tree, says that there is probably nothing that adds so much to the beauty and comfort of a place as thrifty and well shaped shade and ornamental trees. The Mountain Ash, Lindens, Maples, Horse Chesnuts, Tulip Tree, Sycamore, and Elms are beautiful when properly grown, but many of them will not succeed in light sandy soil, others are badly affected with insects and all are more or less injured by city gas.

The *Carolina Poplar* is probably better adapted to all soils and climate and less injured by gas and insects than any other of its class: and is becoming a general favorite with tree planters, being easy to transplant and makes a rapid upright growth, spreading moderately; vigorous and healthy.

Some of the finest shade trees in and near Philadelphia are of this variety, the leaves are large being from four to five inches in diameter, affording ample shade and of a dark glossy green color. The stems are round next to the limb and elliptic near the leaf, giving them a tremulous motion when fanned by a gentle breeze.

All who have tried them speak highly of them. Wm. Sutherland, gardener and florist, of Philadelphia, whose extended experience and observation give weight to his opinions, recommends them after twelve years trial, as the best tree for city purposes.

A NEW WINTER SALAD.—*The Garden* (London) says: Ordinary buckwheat, grown in a moderately warm greenhouse, and cut like mustard when about two or three inches high, makes a delicious winter salad. It can be grown in pans all the year round without the least trouble, and even when lettuces are plentiful will be found a very desirable addition to the salad bowl."

COST OF MAKING PORK.—A writer in the *Buffalo Live Stock Journal* says it costs more to make the second hundred pounds on a pig than the first, and still more to make the third hundred pounds than the second, and so every pound added becomes more expensive.

Take good papers and read them.

THE
MARYLAND FARMER,
A STANDARD MAGAZINE

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Correspondent and Agent.

BALTIMORE, DECEMBER 1, 1874.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One dollar and fifty cents per annum, in advance.
Five copies and more, one dollar each.

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1/2 Page, single insertion.....	12 00
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Special Contributors for 1874.

N. B. Worthington,	John Carroll Walsh.
Barnes Compton,	John Lee Carroll.
Dr. E. J. Henkle,	Augustus L. Taveau.
John Merryman,	John Feast.
A. M. Halsted,	John Wilkinson.
Ed. L. F. Hardcastle,	John F. Wolfinger.
D. Lawrence,	C. K. Thomas.

THE MARYLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The meetings of this Society have been suspended since the annual meeting held on the 11th of September last—exhibition week—but the new Executive Committee organized on the 30th of October last, and among other business transacted was the appointment of a committee, consisting of Messrs. Pentland, Brackenridge and Black, to secure a suitable room for holding their monthly sessions, not being able to procure Lehmann Hall for that purpose. The committee has not yet reported, but it is expected that they will do so at the meeting to be held on December 4th, at which time also a List of Premiums for the exhibitions of 1875, will be submitted for adopted.

SUBSCRIBE FOR 1875.

We want every subscriber to the *Maryland Farmer* and every postmaster in this and other States to act as agent for us, in adding new names to our now swelling list, and let us roll up a goodly number of new names for 1875. It will require very little effort on the part of our friends to accomplish this. Only call your friends and neighbours attention to the *Farmer* and we are sure you will benefit the farming community in giving them the best, and cheapest paper in the country, and confer a favor upon us.

It is the oldest continuous running agricultural magazine in the State.

It is one of the best agricultural magazines in the country, adapted to the wants of the farmers. No one disputes this fact!

A liberal commission will be allowed all who interest themselves in our behalf.

It is, without exception, the best advertising medium to reach the manufacturers, merchants, farmers and planters in this and the States South!

Its contributors cannot be excelled by those of any other magazine of its kind!

It is printed on fine paper and with clear type, and will be embellished with new and useful engravings, such as will be of interest to our readers!

Its subscription price is only \$1.50 per annum—within the means of all—and to those who will send us five or more names, we will only ask \$1 per year, and an additional copy to the getter up of the club. *Subscribe now! Subscribe now! Subscribe now!*

RENEWALS.

We beg leave to remind our friends that this number of "THE FARMER," is the last of this volume, and that a new one begins in January next. It is therefore an appropriate time for *renewal of subscriptions*, and we are emboldened by the late increase to our subscription list, as well as by the many commendations of our journal, to ask each old subscriber to exert his influence and send us one or more additional recruits to our army of supporters. A slight effort will enable each one to do so, and thereby place us under still further obligations to them. Let it cost what it may, we are determined to double our list of subscribers, knowing that the improved usefulness of the magazine will command the continued support of those who subscribe for 1875.

FEED CUTTER.—The manufacturers of the well known Cuming's Cutters, call attention of farmers and the trade to the same, which they offer for sale.

Maryland State Poultry Association.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

The Maryland State Poultry Association met in the early part of November for a more thorough reorganization, preparatory to their forthcoming annual exhibition which will be held at Raine's Hall, Baltimore Street, on January 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th, 1875. The Executive Committee reported that fancy coops, &c., had been secured, and all arrangements requisite for a successful exhibition perfected. In addition to some \$800 in cash premiums offered by the association special premiums have been tendered by fanciers here and elsewhere, which will swell the cash list probably as high as \$2,000. The premium list for the varieties of fowls as adopted was as follows: Class No. 1, Brahmahs and Cochins \$45, and six diplomas; class No. 2, Dorkings, Dominiques and Plymouths \$39 and seven diplomas; class No. 3, golden and silver spangled Hamburgs and plain and pencilled do. \$30 and six diplomas; classes Nos. 4 and 5, black and white Spanish, Sultans, Frizzled, Leghorns and crested, plain and spangled Polish, \$96 and twelve diplomas; class No. 6, colored Malay, Sumatra, pile and duck wing game, \$96 and twelve diplomas; class No. 7, Crevecours, Houdans, La Fleche and Silkies, \$32 and four diplomas; class No. 8, Jersey Blues, Bucks county fowls, grades and crosses, and capons, \$29 and four diplomas; class No. 9, Bantams, \$88 and eleven diplomas; class No. 10, Turkeys, \$48 and six diplomas; No. 11, Ducks, \$48 and six diplomas; class No. 12, Swans and Geese, \$51 and eight diplomas; class No. 13, Pea and Guinea Fowls, Pheasants, Quails, Rabbits and Guinea Pigs, \$58 and fourteen diplomas; class No. 14, dressed fowls, \$10 and three diplomas; class No. 15, Incubator, Artificial Mother, exhibition coops, hatching coops and devices for watering and feeding fowls, six diplomas and \$20. A special premium list for various varieties of pigeons was also adopted, the total amount being \$390. Premiums were also prepared for the best practical bee-hive and specimens of taxidermy. Special committees were appointed, and the officers announced their intention of making the coming State exhibition a decided success. Communications were received and read from surrounding counties as well as from the States of Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware, all expressive of interest in the success of the young Maryland organization and signifying intention to exhibit.

OFFICERS.—The officers elected were: S. M. Sliker, president; J. B. Town, first vice president; F. A. Rommel, second vice-president; J. E. Lloyd, third vice-president; George Schwinn, treasurer, and T. A. Cochran, secretary.

STATE ROAD COMMITTEE.

The Road Committee appointed by the State Agricultural Society, to investigate the repair of the County Roads, held a very interesting meeting at the close of the last meeting of the State Society, Nov. 5th, Dawson Lawrence of Howard county in the chair; vacancies were filled so that the committee now stands, Wm. Webster, (who was appointed Secretary), Dr. M. Merryman, C. F. Ditty and Gen. George H. Steuart. Mr. Webster was in favor of a strict localization of the burden and responsibility of repair, under control of Local and County Highway Repair Boards.

C. F. Ditty advocated the immediate repair of the roads as soon as they needed it, under competent scientific supervision, and the levying of a money tax to meet the expense.

Gen. George H. Steuart was requested by the Committee to get from the different County Commissioners an account of the monies expended in highway repair for the last five years.

The Committee adjourned to meet Thursday, Dec. 3d, 4 P. M., at the rooms of the State Society, corner Eutaw and Fayette Streets, where a discussion of the various plans will be held.

The State Agricultural Society will hold its regular monthly meeting on the same day at 7:30 P. M.

The Laurel Agricultural Association.

In a late issue of the *Marlboro Gazette*, allusion was made to an Agricultural Association which was formed at Laurel by gentlemen from Howard, Anne Arundel and Prince George's County. At a meeting held some weeks back, Adj. Gen. Bond, Michael Bannon and W. Snowden, of Anne Arundel county, Arthur P. Gorman and Thos. C. Bond, of Howard county, and three gentlemen from Prince George's county, were elected directors of the association, and at a recent meeting at Laurel, took the necessary oath of office. The design is to issue a thousand shares of stock, at \$10 per share, and about \$2,000 has already been subscribed. The association intend to secure a suitable piece of ground, near Laurel, and fit up so as to have an exhibition next Fall, the grounds to include a race course for trials of speed.

A WANT SUPPLIED.—We call attention to the advertisement of Col. D. S. Curtiss, of Washington, offering to sell patent rights for a machine to "Spread Barn-yard Manures," and which he claims will execute the work as represented. Such a machine has been much needed by the agricultural public, and if the invention will accomplish the purposes for which it is proposed, a great service will have been rendered the farmers of the country. Read the advertisement.

THE STALLION "LEGATEE."

TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 16th, 1874.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer.

I have just read in your journal for November of a Stallion "Legatee," exhibited by Dr. John Frederick, Jr., at the Harford Co. Agricultural Exhibition, and took the first premium.

Is that the same horse which Dr. E. A. Vannort owned, or is there two of the same name? for, in the same issue of your paper Dr. Vannort takes the first premium at the Kent Co. Agricultural Exhibition for a Stallion by the same name.

I saw the horse at the Harford County Show, and I do think he is the most perfect specimen of a horse that I have ever beheld, and as I have made the raising of horses a business during life, I know something about them. HORSEMAN.

We would inform "Horseman," that there is but one Stallion "Legatee," and he is the property of Dr. E. A. Vannort, Hanesville, Kent Co., Md. The horse was making a full season at Perrymansville, and Dr. John Frederick, Jr., in whose charge he is, exhibited him at the Harford County Agricultural Fair and that accounts for his name being connected with both fairs. The doctor alone owns him, and is not desirous to sell him. He has taken the first premium for thoroughbred stallion and stallion sweepstakes at every Fair where he has been exhibited, and is as you state, a perfect model of a horse. He is by *Lexington*, out of *Levity*, and possesses the best blood in the country. Won the celebrated Restoration stakes at Long Branch, (purse \$5000,) and was noted whilst on the turf.—He is now only 8 years old, sound as a dollar and as pretty as a picture, as all can bear witness who saw him at the late Harford and Kent County Fairs.

Dorchester County Agricultural Fair.

The first exhibition of the Dorchester County Md., Agricultural Society took place at Cambridge 5th and 6th of November and the Cambridge Chronicle says it was a brilliant success. The display of live stock was very fine, one hundred stalls being occupied with choice horses, cattle, and fat swine, and beautiful specimens of fowls were also on exhibition. The ladies department was stocked with a profusion of the handiwork of the fair contributors. On Friday a procession of the stock took place on the race course, and was an interesting sight. Several races took place on Thursday and Friday, and were a great attraction to those assembled. Two thousand persons were in attendance the first day, and over three thousand on the second day.

The Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture has recently imported twelve head of Guernsey cattle—ten cows and two bulls—for the purpose of improving the qualities of the milch cows of that State.

WOODLAWN FARMERS CLUB.

NOVEMBER SESSION.

This Society, composed of farmers, with their wives and daughters, of Fairfax Co., Va., held an unusually interesting meeting, on Saturday, the 21st of November, at the fine farm of Richard Roberts; and many important matters were discussed. Chalkey Gillingham, President, in the chair.

APPLE ORCHARDS.

Interesting discussion was had in regard to planting and pruning apple trees. Some members thought twenty feet apart was far enough. The Chair thought thirty feet was necessary. Some members advocated close pruning and heading in. The Chair thought the cross and interfering limbs should be cut out, and favored low pruning. He thought wheat and meadow crops not so good for growing orchards, but thought corn and other hoed crops better, while grass was better for old and bearing orchards. The views, generally, of the president, were concurred in by a majority of the members, though some favored close planting.

FAT OF FORAGE PLANTS.

Colonel D. S. Curtiss read an article from the *Maryland Farmer*, showing that early cut hay and straw were more nutritious and contained more fat-making properties than that later cut, and was most valuable.

A. W. Harrison thought this an important subject, and deserved attention and investigation.

Other members spoke upon the subject, and favoring it. It was thought more care should be taken of straw, and in cutting hay earlier than common.

It was suggested that our meadows should be mowed early.

ANTI-FENCE LAWS.

P. H. Troth read a letter from George Mason, stating that an effort was being made to have the fence law repealed at the next session of the Legislature, and Mr. T. thought measures should be put forth to prevent the change before the Legislature meets.

D. S. Curtiss stated that the annual report of the Agricultural Department, for 1871, shows that the cost of the fences in the U. S. is about equal to the National debt, on which interest is paid; and nearly equal to all the farm animals—being, in round numbers \$1,946,309,000, and much of this expense to farmers could be saved by proper fence laws.

N. W. Pierson read similar statistics from an address, by H. C. Hallowell.

After some discussion a motion for a committee was unanimously passed to get up a petition, and take charge of the matter. The Chair appointed as said committee P. H. Troth, C. Lukens and W. Gillingham, who soon prepared a petition against the change, which was at once signed by every member.

SHEEP AND DOGS.

N. W. Pierson read statistics on sheep husbandry, and thought we should have efficient protection from destruction by dogs.

This was the basis of discussion all maintaining that Legislative protection should be afforded, against ravages by dogs to encourage sheep raising.

PEACH GROWING.

D. S. Curtiss read an article from the London *Journal of Horticulture*, on peach raising in England, which describes the mode by which better peaches are produced in that country, which consists in thoroughly draining the land, preparing proper soil and thinning out poor limbs and small imperfect fruit.

Most of the members approved trimming out poor branches, and thinning out the fruit as desirable to make better specimens of fruit.

The Chair recommended it.

Valentine Baker said his pears were best when the trees hung fullest of fruit.

Taylor Blunt thought the difference in price at our markets would not pay for the trouble of such work.

WHEAT AND DIVERSITY OF CROPS.

The President called for new business, when D. S. Curtiss stated that he saw by the *London Economist* that the price of wheat in England is now down to 59s. per quarter, which is lower than usual, that paper stating that wheat had not been lower but once in eight years; and that the reason was that all other portions of the world had sown larger acreage the past season than usual, and he thought that this fact should dictate the raising of greater diversity of crops in this country—that should not meet world wide competition.

This caused several members to remark that our American farmers must give increased attention to other products, such as fruits, meats and dairy business, which was concurred in by most and dissented from by but few.

Ed. Mason thought most localities were not favorable for fruit, and that the markets would become overstocked.

The President thought fruit-growing was a subject of great and increasing importance in this country.

C. Lukens said soil and locality had much to do with it.

OYSTER SHELLS.

Burning and preparing oyster shells for fertilizers was discussed at considerable length.

P. H. Troth said a good burn would be secured by plenty of wood, and drawing in the pile toward the top, so that all would be burned.

John Ballenger always got a good burn with plenty of wood, but thought too much burning was not the best.

John Mason spoke at considerable length on this subject. He had a good deal of experience. He thought it better to break or grind the shells fine than to burn them, as burning set free and allowed to escape some of the best qualities of them. He thought a mill for grinding shells would pay in this region. He advocated dissolving bones and such things in acids or potash.

Ed. Mason thought few things were impossible. Science might do much for us in a short space of time which nature occupied a longer time to accomplish.

FORESTS.

John Mason spoke eloquently and instructively in favor of more attention to growing and preserving forests of timber for future supply, such as cedar, pine and hickory, with other kinds.

RECESS FOR SUPPER.

Here supper was announced, and a recess taken

to enjoy it. A sumptuous repast was supplied by Mrs. Roberts and her daughters, to which all paid the highest compliments.

The supper being disposed of, the president called the meeting to order for further business.

DIFFERENT MANURES.

Much animated conversation was indulged in on the subject of the various practices of manuring and the respective cost and profits of different kinds and modes.

David Ferris thought it an important subject—that the manure question was the most important one we have to do with.

The question was asked, would it pay to buy and haul manure from the cities of Washington and Alexandria? Most of the members thought it would, among them John Ballenger. Others thought not.

A comparative discussion arose as to the benefits of bone dust and some other fertilizers.

Walter Walton had used bone dust, 500 lbs. to the acre, on wheat and grass: it improved his grass and made better wheat; but greater benefit was derived from its application to his grass land.

Further discussion showed diversity of opinion as to the comparative value of bone dust and stable manure; but it was also proved that much depends on location and soils.

CURTISS' MANURE DISTRIBUTOR.

The diagrams and descriptions of a new invention and machine for distributing coarse manure and composts were on the table, and received favorable attention from members, patented by Col. D. S. Curtiss, of Washington, D. C.

The Chair appointed the following members to make separate and individual reports at the next meeting: on manures and fertilizers of different kinds, John Ballenger, Albert Harrison, C. Lukens, and C. Boughton.

DAIRY STOCK AND PRODUCTS.

All feeling cheerful and hopeful that this had been a highly interesting meeting, one member moved to adjourn, but it was not seconded, and the discussion on dairy stock and manures was continued in an instructive manner for another hour.

The President said there was necessity for improved dairy cows in this section, and he thought it would pay to get better stock for that purpose from abroad; which was approved by many members.

Ed. Mason was appointed to report on dairy farming.

The critical committee for the next meeting are: E. Mason, C. Lukens and Richard Roberts.

The manure and dairy subjects will be principal subjects at the next meeting.

The moon being well up and shining bright, the society adjourned to meet on the 19th of December next, at the handsome farm and residence of John Ballenger, near Mount Vernon.

LAND MARK.

LANDRETH'S RURAL REGISTER AND ALMANAC, 1875, is one of the best and most practical of the many they have issued during a long series of years—through which they have acquired fame, and won the confidence of the public in the reliable character of their garden and field seeds,

THE DAIRY.

LONG TABLE TALK ON DAIRY MATTERS.

TALK NO. XI.

MILK—Number Two.

Purity—Tests—Temperature—Odor—Quantity—
Condensed—Tainted.

TESTS FOR PURITY.

Further in regard to the tests for pure milk: Prof. Chandler, in a mixture of night and morning milk from 12 dairies, found that the average amount of solid matter was 12.55 per cent: Prof. Wanklyn's analysis of country milk was 12.45: although some town fed gave 14.07: Muller and Eirenstuck, experimenting for the Royal Agricultural Society of Sweden, concluded that milk from well fed cows never contains less than 11.05: Von Baumhauer's figure is 11, and Dr. Wagner gives the average as 12.52. Brunner states the amount of butter to be 3 to 3½ per cent. Boussingault and Poggiale found 5 to 5.27 of sugar: another test is the test tubes illustrated in a previous number of the *Maryland Farmer* in the Dairy Department: if these are properly graduated into hundredths the principal amount of cream may be read off in 12 hours, although we have had milk rise in the tubes for 72 hours, and furnish 3 separate skimmings: this test will do where there is time to make it and is one of the best: Hassall gives the average as 9½ per cent: Dr. Normandy puts it at 8½: Wanklyn found 9.8 and 13, in two specimens: Dr. Wagner gives the yield from good milk as 10 to 11 per cent: our own average is 10 from native cows: this is not high enough for high fed cows of the butter breeds: they will range from 15 to 30 per cent.

ODOR.

When milk is first drawn from the cow it possesses a very disagreeable odor: so unpleasant that we have seen persons who greatly disliked the new milk: this odor called animal odor should be removed from the milk as soon as possible after it is drawn, as its presence is injurious to the cheese and butter made from milk not purified: by confining newly drawn milk in a close vessel a few hours, any of our readers may be satisfied of the presence of this odor, and judge from its strength the necessity of removing it; this can be done by letting the milk drop slowly through a perforated tin vessel a few feet, like the fall of water from the rose of a watering pot, or by heating the milk—say to 130 or 140°—before putting it away for cream: the aeration of milk by exposing it to a current of air as above is said to increase the product of butter or cheese 5 per cent., but heating the milk is considered the best mode of purifying it, as the disagreeable odors being volatile readily escape in the process: this mode is particularly necessary where the milk is kept in deep vessels, as the small amount of milk exposed to the air prevents purification, which takes place to a greater degree in shallow vessels: milk vessels should never be covered as this prevents, to a certain extent, the escape of bad odors in the milk, and also has a bad effect on the color of the cream and butter. This odor

cannot be removed by quickly placing the milk in ice cold water: the animal heat of course will be taken away, thus preventing the escape of the odor which will be retained in the milk and butter, and be a cause of early rancidity in the butter: it will not keep as well as when the milk has been thoroughly purified before setting: this odor is sometimes so strong as to amount to a taint, and although good butter at some of our best dairies and at the Swedish Butter Dairies, is made by immediately cooling the milk, where there is reason to suspect a strong taint, the purifying process, heating or aeration should not be omitted: so far as the separation of the cream from the milk is concerned, the Swedish butter makers have decided after long and careful experiments, that the more speedily the milk is cooled the more complete will be the separation: with good feed and pastures, and clean stables and yard, the matter of taint or odor is under the dairyman's control.

TEMPERATURE.

In Sweden the milk is placed in water cooled down by ice to 35°, F., our ordinary spring water ranges from 48° to 60°: if the temperature of the milk room can be kept over 50° in winter and under 60° in summer, the temperature will be right: there appears to be a range within which cream will rise: if over 60°, the milk has a tendency to thicken and sour which prevents the rising of the cream: if near the freezing point, it is too cold for cream to rise: the milk is chilled and thickened, and the light globules of cream are easily prevented from ascending: make your dairy so tight that you can regulate the temperature summer and winter, by ventilation and exclusion of unnecessary air at pleasure: it will be found however that more and better butter—in firmness, color, keeping quality—can be made by keeping the milk at 55° than at any other temperature.

QUANTITY.

If we get into gallons of milk the butter and cheese product of 1870 (\$14,244,000 lbs. of butter, and 164,000,000 lbs. of cheese,) and add to it the 236,000,000 gallons of milk sold, we have a total of 1,983,732,000 gallons of milk as the product of 9,000,000 cows for the whole country, or an average of 220 gallons per cow per year.

Dr. E. L. Sturtevant of Waushakum, Connecticut, reports to American Agriculturist the average annual yield of some of his natives at over 800 gallons: some of his Ayrshires yield over 900 gallons.

The average product of the good dairy regions of New York is about 330 gallons.

As an instance of remarkable production we have the yield of the cow, Old Creamer, for 3 months—950 gallons: this cow has given 12 gallons of milk per day for consecutive days giving, we estimate, an annual yield of not less than 2000 gallons.

Our readers who contemplate establishing milk dairies have now sufficient data for their estimates.

CONDENSED MILK.

Several factories in Europe and our own country are engaged in the manufacture of condensed milk: the capital required is from \$10 to \$20,000: one factory in Europe has 2000 cows to work from, another 1,000: in Switzerland and Bavaria the business has assumed large proportion. Borden's factory in New York condenses 10,000 quarts a day,

and as it sends out daily 50 forty-quart cans, (2000 quarts) we presume four-fifths of gross quantity must be allowed for loss. Prof. Willard has given a lecture on this subject with the following estimates: building and fixtures \$12,000: 5,000 gallons milk, at 2½ cents per gallon, \$625: daily running expenses \$24.50: cans and sealing \$400. Daily product 10,000 pound cans at 29 cents per can— which leaves a balance of \$156.50 daily: here again our readers can make their own estimates.

TAINTED MILK.

Milk may become tainted if the cows feed in a pasture near a dead carcass: impure air will lead to impure milk: feeding certain kinds of vegetables, turnips, cabbages, etc., before milking, will give the milk a taint: to prevent this, give the cattle constantly good feed and pure air, and feed roots after milking: to remove it, heat or aerate the milk: garlic-tainted milk may be improved by dropping a piece of charcoal, two or three inches square, into the pitcher or vessel containing it.

MILK WITHOUT BUTTER.

Cases are on record where milk from cows would not produce butter, and also when mixed with milk from other cows would cause it to be small in quantity and inferior in quality: the Journal of the New York Agricultural Society gives a recipe for this difficulty as follows: "Two ounces sulphate of antimony, three ounces coriander seeds, powdered and well mixed, to be given as a soft bolus and followed by a draft of half a pint of vinegar, a pint of water and a handful of common salt, for three successive mornings on an empty stomach: a single dose is usually followed by an improvement in further gradual but permanent results." So saith the authorities: we do not place much confidence in drugs: if sweet clover and orchard grass, and good timothy, and blue grass, and yellow corn meal, and oil cake, and pure water, and clean stables, and kind and regular treatment, will not give good butter, we should be loth to try sulphate of antimony and coriander seeds: the water and salt are good but give them to the cows separately and pure, and let them mix them to suit their own taste, and put the vinegar on beets and bean soup: however, our readers have both plans and can choose for themselves.

WITHHOLDING MILK.

Cows will sometimes hold up their milk, for which we give two recipes:—

1. Give them some salt to lick:
2. Lay a chain across the back while they are being milked.

MILK OF DIFFERENT BREEDS.

We give below the results of several experiments made in England to test the relative quality of the milk of different breeds: it must be remembered notwithstanding the definite character of this test and the uniformity of the results, each breeding keeping its relative place throughout every change of breed and treatment, that *individuals* in each breed cannot be taken as representatives of the breed: we have known native cows to give eleven and sixteen pounds of butter per week, equal to the best yield of the best imported or home bred stock of the best butter breeds, whereas, the average annual yield of all the cows in the country is only 80 pounds of butter per cow: that the cows here test-

ed were superior individuals of their respective breeds, is evinced by the high average of cream on grass and hay alone: the ordinary average from good cows is as stated above 10 per cent. of cream.

No. 1. Feed—grass and hay only.

Pure Brittany cow's milk.....	19.27 per ct. cream.
Pure Jersey.....	18.65 "
Pure Durham.....	15.32 "
Pure Ayrshire.....	13.47 "
Pure Devon.....	14.87 "
Cross bet. Jersey & Durham.....	17.95 "

No. 2. Feed—grass, hay one lb., linseed cake.

Brittany cow's milk.....	20.00 per ct. cream.
Jersey.....	18.98 "
Durham.....	16.02 "
Ayrshire.....	14.14 "
Devon.....	15.31 "
Cross breed.....	18.21 "

No. 3. Feed—grass, hay, brewers' grains and one measure condiment.

Brittany cow's milk.....	20.00 per ct. cream.
Jersey.....	18.62 "
Durham.....	16.09 "
Ayrshire.....	14.09 "
Devon.....	16.07 "
Cross breed.....	18.84 "

No. 4. Feed—grass, hay, meal and feed extra.

Brittany cow's milk.....	22.00 per ct. cream.
Jersey.....	20.00 "
Durham.....	17.95 "
Ayrshire.....	13.94 "
Devon.....	15.09 "
Cross breed.....	19.05 "

No. 5. Same feed, but change in proportion.

Brittany cow's milk.....	21.50 per ct. cream.
Jersey.....	19.08 "
Durham.....	18.56 "
Ayrshire.....	14.84 "
Devon.....	17.00 "
Cross breed.....	18.60 "

FEED FOR MILK.

Wheat Bran, (Middlings) is one of the best milk-producing articles we have: it does not make vigorous assault on the system, and draw milk from it by force of stimulation, but appears to carry the milk within itself, the cow being the separator: it is gentle in its operation on the bowels, being cooling and aperient: mixed with yellow corn meal or corn and cob meal, half and half—a gallon of the mixture—morning and night on cut and moistened hay or straw, we have a fine feed for quantity and quality of milk and butter: the Chester county dairymen are now using large quantities of buckwheat bran as a milk-producing feed.

Finally, as having an important bearing on this question we submit the following result of careful experiments made by Harris Lewis to test the relative value of different kinds of feed as milk-producers:

During the season of 1846, 1847 and 1848 I instituted a series of experiments, which were conducted with all the care I was able to bestow, for the express purpose of testing the value of the various kinds of grain as cattle feed in connection with pasturage. And in every instance I found that while my cows obtained sufficient good fresh grass, feeding meal and shorts, either with or without whey, would not increase the quantity of milk or the quantity of butter or cheese. But as soon as the pasture supply failed to afford all the cows required, or as the grass became less succulent, as it usually does toward the latter part of July or before the middle of August, I found that each kind of grain fed would increase the flow of milk, and consequently increase the yield of butter and cheese. From the experiments I came to the following conclusions, viz:

First—That buckwheat bran, when only the best of the flour was removed, would produce the greatest amount of milk, but that the cow would lose in weight or fall off in condition, whether it was fed in connection with whey or water.

Second—That oatmeal would increase the quantity of milk nearly as much as buckwheat, and that the cow would gain in weight, at the same time, twice as fast as the cow fed with the buckwheat would lose in weight.

Third—that wheat shorts (costing at the time ten dollars per ton, and before the millers knew how to dust out every particle of flour,) were next to oats in value for the production of milk.

Fourth—that barley would rank as number four for the production of milk, and as number two for increasing the weight of the cow.

Fifth—that cornmeal would stand number five for producing milk, and as number one for increasing the weight of the cow. But little of the corn or barley meal, was fed alone, but most of it fed with wheat shorts, mixed in equal quantities by weight.

My sixth conclusion is, that grass is better food than any kind of grain for dairy cows, where milk alone is the object sought and that no dairyman on good grass lands costing less than sixty dollars per acre, can afford to feed it during the summer season in connection with pasturage.

We have found in the treatment of our own cows that when their grain was stopped, if they had an abundance of good pasture, there was no diminution of the product of butter: the cow requires a certain quantity of feed for the vital functions, for the thorough repair and up-building of the system, and for the secretion of milk, and where an abundance of good grass can be secured for these purposes, it remains the cheapest, healthiest and most productive food we have. *

WHITE SPECKS IN BUTTER.

These are caused by the thin dry leathery coating which comes upon cream exposed in large shallow vessels to the atmosphere; this is composed largely of caseine or albuminous matter, which in churning is beaten into small particles, and does not become thoroughly incorporated with the remaining cream, and mixing with the butter give it a speckled or streaked white appearance: butter should open like a sweet potato, the same color all the way through. These specks not only prevent the butter from bringing the best price in the market, but are positively injurious to its keeping qualities, bringing about rancidity quicker than a perfectly homogeneous mass would.

To prevent this: 1st, never let the cream freeze: 2nd, if you have good cold deep water, set the cream in deeper vessels of less diameter, thus exposing a smaller surface of cream to the atmosphere, but see that the water is as high on the outside of the vessel as the milk or cream is on the inside: this prevents the action on the milk or cream of the at-

mosphere: for instance, if your milk jar or can is 12 inches high, and it is put full, into water 6 inches deep, and the external atmosphere rises to 80 or 90, the part of the milk or cream above the water will turn sour and thick before the under part: we have seen clabber on the upper part of a vessel whilst the under part was still liquid: when milk begins to turn sour and thick, the small globules of cream cannot rise through it: hence the necessity of keeping the milk sweet long enough to permit all the cream to rise: 3d, stir the cream daily while it is waiting to be churned: and after the addition of fresh cream in the skimmings: 4th, never add hot or cold water directly to the cream to increase or lower its temperature, and do not let it get too hot before churning when warming it in winter: if the cream is too cold, as is usually the case in cold weather, when taken directly from the water of our cold spring houses, expose it to a gentle heat, and turn the vessel and stir frequently, until it reaches between 62° and 65°, which can be ascertained by a bulb thermometer, which no housewife should be without, who is anxious to avoid the all night churnings so frequent in cold weather in our dairies: where the water of the dairy is between 52° and 60°, the usual temperature of good spring water, it will require no cooling nor heating to bring butter in a reasonable time (say within 60 minutes) where the milk and cream in the vessels are no higher than the water on the outside, and where the temperature of the milk room or spring house, or rather the temperature of the milk and cream does not vary much from a range of 55° to 70° the year through: the latter is a summer figure, and will sometimes be reached a few feet above the floor. *

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* states that thirty cows yielded 94,525 quarts of milk in a year—3,150 quarts per cow—60 quarts per week for each cow—or 8.57 quarts per day. The greatest monthly yield was in May—9,946 quarts, from the thirty.

HIGH PRICES FOR TOBACCO.—The *New England Homestead* notes some heavy sales of tobacco to New York buyers, and says thereon:—Already two-thirds of the Connecticut crop is sold and the valley is full of agents of New York houses bargaining for the remainder. The demand is unprecedented. Raisers on the east side of the river are selling their green crop at an average of thirty-eight cents, and on the west side at thirty cents.—And many who have contracted for sales are anxious now to give \$100 to \$200 to have their contract annulled, thinking that still higher prices may be secured.

For the Maryland Farmer:

THE DAIRY, AND THE DAIRY INTEREST.

NUMBER TWO.

Pursuant to promise, I must pursue this exhaustless and very important subject further, and I hope to be able to edify a few at least of your readers who are in pursuit of knowledge pertaining thereto. Few branches so important to the farmer everywhere, are so little studied as the *dairy*.

I have been reliably informed that the noted dairy districts of New York have greatly improved in their material condition since systematic dairying on an extended scale was inaugurated. In districts where only ten or fifteen years ago a majority of the farms were mortgaged, they are now mainly owned in fee, and many of their owners are money lenders instead of borrowers, and where slovenly "slip shod" farming was general, thrift and prosperity prevails: a striking contrast.

This is mainly attributable to co-operation: to the organization of Dairy Associations, and the establishment of *Cheese Factories* and *Creameries*. No agricultural interest in that renowned agricultural State has been fostered, studied and conducted with more intelligence, industry and enterprise than the dairy industry.

Its success is in a great degree attributable to the aggregation of the intelligence of a large number of the votaries of the art, and by Club discussions, through which each may possess himself of the intelligence and skill of all, by which the improvements in every branch are widely and rapidly disseminated. Oral discussions alone were not satisfactory to the sagacious, far seeing men who were the leading spirits in the great work of elevating this great industry to its proper status in the numerous list represented in this great producing nation.

Able men were selected and sent to England to glean from the most renowned districts in dairying of the olden country, all that was desirable in every detail of the interest, which with various other means resorted to, has resulted in making our dairy products to-day equal, if not superior, to any in the whole world.

Among the other means alluded to, were the careful and judicious selection of the most intelligent and competent men in their association, in each of the respective branches of the art, and inviting them to prepare essays on each branch, and submit the same at meetings for the purpose, and finally in compiling them into a report, which they have published annually for several years: so that now each member has a *dairy library*, in which is recorded the failures, discouragements and difficulties en-

countered, as well as the successes, the value of which is incalculable.

The representatives of all great industries achieving the greatest success, have had similar organizations, and have pursued like courses for the advancement of their respective interests.

Farmers' Clubs, regularly and frequently convened, and properly conducted, where all the prominent branches of their vocation are carefully discussed, have been productive of very desirable results. It is lamentable that they are not more general.

Every farmer is directly interested, more or less, in the *dairy* subject, for each should produce a sufficiency of milk, cream and butter, for family consumption, unless they are connected with a creamery association, in which case it might be, and no doubt would be most profitable to furnish milk to the creamery, and obtain from it what butter might be required. The same will apply to the manufacture of cheese. It might be made a great convenience, and also very profitable to establish in many districts, even small co-operative creameries, where each farmer could carry daily what milk he could profitably make, and get in return any quantity of dairy products that each might require, without each family being obliged to supply all the appurtenances for butter making and dairying.

But one skilled butter maker in each neighborhood would be required, and if he understood his business, and required all the milk supplied to him for manufacture to be what is required for making prime butter, many families who have never had any prime butter on their tables, might enjoy it daily from the creamery.

For the encouragement of such as may be disposed to make an effort to establish the pioneer creamery in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, I will cheerfully gratuitously furnish plans and specifications for constructing and managing a creamery, embracing all the latest improvements to the day, including my Gulf Stream Refrigerated Dairy and Ice House Arrangement, and no patent fee will be charged. A graduate of my Experimental Farm School is now keeping a dairy of 100 cows in central New York.

He informs me that he takes his milk to a neighboring creamery where butter is returned for the milk, which butter is shipped to New York city every week, where it is sold by the season, at 2½ cents per pound less than the highest weekly quotations, the purchaser furnishing the ferkins. He says that he is well satisfied with the profits of dairying on this system, and that his farms are annually improving in condition and value.

J. WILKINSON, Balto. Md.

HORTICULTURE.

PRUNING APPLE ORCHARDS.

Those fond of abstract discussions, are writing out their views for the newspapers, in regard to pruning orchard trees. The most contradictory opinions are advanced not only as to the proper time or manner of pruning; but as to whether trees should be pruned at all. It is quite certain that any one who has had long experience in the management of orchard trees, knows that he could no more do without the pruning knife, nay even the saw and the hatchet, than he could eat his dinner without a knife and fork. It could be done of course. As the children say, fingers were made before forks, and so nature gave us fruit trees long before we found out aught about culture. One can get along without ever cutting an orchard tree.—There are some that can be named, that never had a knife on them; but it is just as true that the best fruit and best trees generally will be where the pruning implements are regularly and judiciously used. One can, of course, take his ladder and hatchet, and saw, and go into his orchard and cut away to the great injury of the tree, but this is not the judicious trimming that sensible people recommend, but a senseless practice worse than letting them alone. If there is to be a choice between a murderous practice like this, and prune not at all, as advocated by some, better by all means join the anti-pruning party. There are again some who say if trees are properly seen to when young, no pruning is required in after life. This is not in accord with experience. No matter how well cared for there is always something to be done as the trees grow. But so far as this argument is concerned, it does not amount to much, as not one tree in a thousand in our average orchards get any special treatment when young; so that the plea on the ground of being early inclined, holds good too seldom to weigh much in general rules for practice.

At this season of the year then, it will be well to see that a good pruning saw has its teeth well sharpened and set, a handy little hatchet ground, and the pruning knife honed up to a keen and yet strong edge. Whenever an opportunity occurs through the winter, go through the orchard and see what is to be done. One thing to be seen to is that every leading branch has full room to develop all its branchlets perfectly. If two of these go along together, there will be a struggle for life between them, in which both will lose something. Cut one

away. If this has not been going on for more than a year or so, the knife will do all that is required, but if the struggle is of many years standing, saw away at the worst one without hesitation. Such sawing ought to be made close to the main trunk, and the exposed part painted so as to prevent decay until the new bark grows over it. Then again large branches will often in time get decrepid through overbearing. The growth will, perhaps, not be more than an inch or two, and the fruit small and sickly. In such cases there will often be tolerably vigorous branches down towards the main branch or trunk. In such cases cut away the weakened portions, leaving the healthier ones to come on and take their places. Sometimes in trees which have been bearing for some years there will be a general decline in vigor of the whole tree. In this case cut away most of the bearing branches all over the head, leaving some of the younger sprouts to come on and form a head. This usually brings about a great revival, chiefly through the rest from bearing the tree receives. Some people think they renovate old trees by cutting back and re-grafting with other kinds. But it is the rest, not the re-grafting, and a mere cutting back does just the same thing.

Where not much of this severe work is necessary, that is where all the main branches are about where they ought to be, and no where else, there will still be numerous young sprouts coming out at various places through the head, up in through the interior of the tree. These are competitors with the main or fruit bearing branches and should be ruthlessly cut away.

These are but general hints, to be sure. One's judgment must be called in as to how little or how much is to be done; but it will be seen from what has been said that the apple orchard will find employment for many a leisure day during the winter season.

TIME TO MULCH STRAWBERRIES.—Whatever may be said of the best time to mulch strawberries to protect them during the winter's cold and the spring frosts, my experience rests in putting on the mulch just after the ground has become frozen—say one to two inches deep; cover the line between the crowns of the vines four inches deep, and over the crowns only put one inch. Straw, leaves, bog hay, or coarse grass litter, is all that is requisite.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

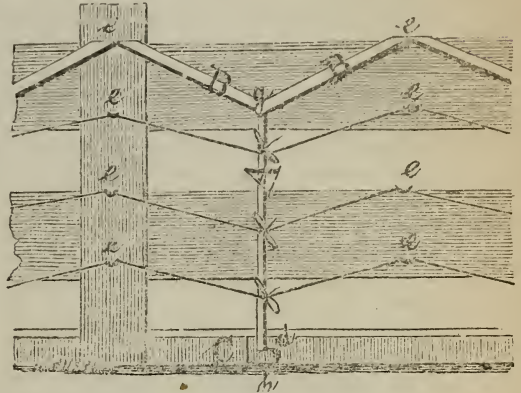
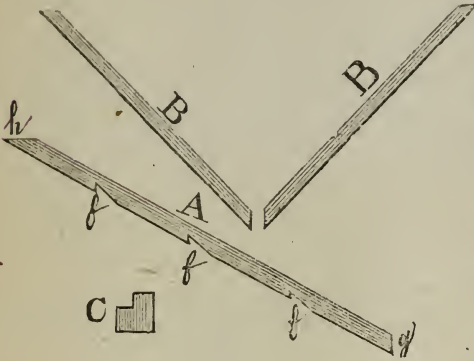
TRELLISES FOR GARDEN VEGETABLES.

The winter season may be put to good account in preparing posts, poles and trellises, for various garden crops.

Among the kinds commonly grown most varied taste is shown in making tomato trellises. Usually they are suffered to trail on the ground. But they

Gardener's Monthly, which, by permission of its publisher we copy. The describer calls it an *Au-tomat*—ic trellis.

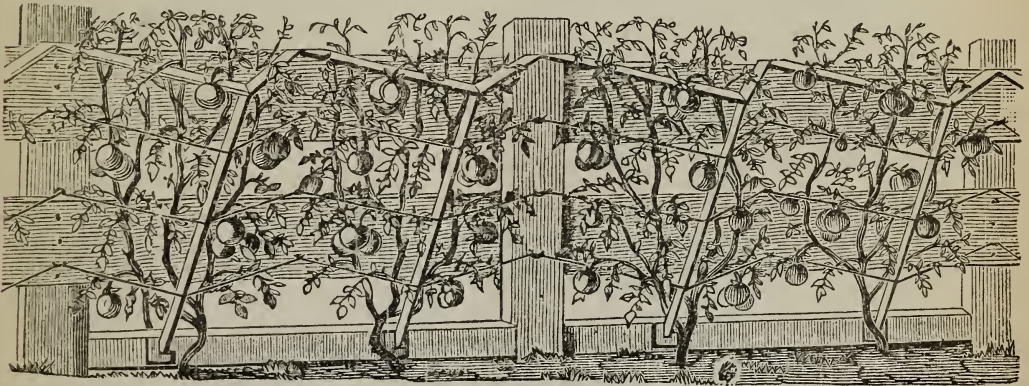
A are the uprights beveled so as to stand at an angle of 30°. The lower bevel at "h" is therefore sharper than the one at "g". B are lighter pieces squaring together on "g." Pieces "C" are mere cleats to stand the "A" pieces in, "e" are staples



do not bear as well. It is found that they do best on some sort of a trellis, and besides this in a garden where neatness prevails, the tomato trellis is as much a matter of taste as of utility. Mere stakes, stout and strong are often employed, and some have merely strips meeting at the top and spread at the base like a step ladder. Under this however by

for the wire; "d" midway places for the cleats.

This looks complicated, but it is simply put together, and will last many years, and always looks neat and nice. It may be used for cucumbers, or other things occasionally, if not thought desirable to have tomatoes on the same ground successively, though those who live in closely built towns, and



the shade is so much cool ground that the tomato, which loves warmth, does not do over well. Last year we noted an ingenious tomato trellis in the

thus have little choice for rotation in their small gardens, tell us that with care in manuring the tomato will do well many years on the same ground.

HORSERADISH.—A correspondent of *The Gardener* (London) says: "It may not be generally known that if leaves or litter be placed on the tops of horseradish crowns two feet or so thick, the plants grow through them in the course of the sum-

mer, making small white roots the thickness of one's finger, which are as tender as spring radishes, and much to be preferred to the tough, stringy stuff usually supplied with our roast beef."

Keep your own secrets, if you have any.

THE MORELLO CHERRY.

Under this head we do not mean simply the one or two kinds commonly called Morellos in fruit catalogues, but the whole race of sour cherries, or as they are commonly called "Pie Cherries," and of which the early Richmond is an illustrious example. It is a capital fruit tree for our Middle States to grow, and we do really believe that—not too far distant from a large town or canning establishment, it would be quite as profitable to grow in a series of years as an orchard of peaches or any other fruit. The peach sometimes fails from the flower buds being killed by frost, but this rarely occurs with the Pie cherry. It always bears a fair crop, and generally a full one. This season the writer saw a tree perhaps fifteen years old, from which cherries were gathered and sold to the neighbors at a low price, but which yielded \$30. If an acre could be had like these, that would be \$3000. Of course, however, this calculation will not do.—As we increase the quantity, we have to seek more distant markets, but we really do believe that an orchard of early Richmond cherries when they once get to fairly bearing, would bring in regularly a sum of \$1000 per acre, and of this but comparatively little would be asked for in expenses, but the gathering and marketing. The whole ground might be given to the cherry trees, as they do not grow large, and might be set from fifteen to eighteen or twenty feet apart.

The only troubles are the curculio and the black knot. The sour cherry does not suffer very much from the former, and the latter seems to be kept in check by cutting away the diseased parts as soon as they appear. The idea is worth considering, how far they may be grown to a profit.

THE PAST SEASON'S GRAPE CROP.

The remarkably dry season of the past year has been so favorable to the grape crop, that the yield in many instances has been enormous. In consequence of this tremendous yield, prices have fallen so low that a large number of vineyards will not pay expenses. In the State of New York there are large districts round the lakes where the soil and climate seem remarkably favorable to the production of the grape. These favored localities are never known to fail, and from some fifteen years of experience the average product of an acre has been found to be \$1000. A New York paper tells us that this year the product will not be more than \$200 per acre, which will not pay for the cost.—The paper referred to does not seem to understand the question however, and regards the low figures

as resulting from the greater facilities for flooding the Eastern markets than formerly. Means of transportation are of course annually increasing; but no faster we believe than the increase of population. The real cause of the low prices is, as we have said, the favorable climatic conditions favoring an extra abundance. Every kind has borne well. In some places in Maryland, where the old Catawba has been long given up as worn out, it has produced well this season.

This grape experience goes to show that in calculating the probable profits of fruit culture, a bad season or two should be taken into account.—Figures are often given of the profits of orchards or fruit gardens, for a single year, and many are induced to go into fruit culture on the strength of these figures. But these are dangerous. There are years of too much, and years of entire failure. It is only on an average of years that a true estimate can be made.

Mignonette and Sweet Alyssum as Window Plants.

These sweet smelling articles are among the most desirable of plants for window culture; but few succeed with them because of too little light.—These of all plants like sun in order to bloom freely and well. Deprived of light they draw and become spindly. They do this on far less provocation than many other things. The Mignonette is a good feeder; when it has plenty of light this is an advantage, but when it is growing in partial shade the richer the soil the less it flowers. This is true also of the Sweet Alyssum.

Much injury is also done to these plants in room culture by over watering. If too wet the leaves soon turn yellow; if too dry there is a pinkish tinge to the green, and they soon after fall away. Only care and watchfulness to learn the habits of plants will teach one this. These plants are usually annuals; but if the flowers are kept pinched off, as they appear, they may be kept for several years.—Gardeners make what they call tree mignonette by this plan. They select strong plants and cut away all shoots that come except one which is trained to a stick; no bloom is allowed to appear. The main stem is trained up some distance, and is often a year growing before it is allowed to make a head, which then flowers freely.

SOIL FOR FRUITS.—The *Gardeners' Monthly* gives briefly the following rules for selecting the best soils for the different fruits: "A light dryish soil for the peach; a strong loamy soil for the pear; nearly the same for the plum; a heavy loam for the apple—if on limestone all the better; and for the cherry a soil similar to that of the peach."

THE CHINESE AZALEA.

This plant is often regarded as difficult to grow ; but with a little care in the roots it is as easy as any other plant. These roots are very fine and hair-like, and thus soon become injured when water is allowed to stagnate about them. If the leaves have a yellow tint this is generally from injury to the roots in this way. Most good gardeners are very particular in Azalea growing to keep the hole in the bottom of the pot clear from choking, so as to allow the water free chance to go rapidly away.— This they do by putting in a good quantity of broken pots, and over this layer a thin sheet of moss, so as to keep out the earth from the broken pots, which would otherwise soon become clogged with the earth. Then they never put the plant in a pot larger than would contain all the roots easily, because the soil in which there are no roots to suck out the moisture soon sours. The plants are also set high in the pots, often above the level of the rim, in the middle. At the rim of course there must be some depression in order to permit of the pot holding water. All these precautions are to prevent the roots from becoming sodden. As an additional safe guard, small pieces of broken pots are often mixed with the earth ; all of which helps to keep the soil from being sour. A good free growth is essential to good Azaleas. This can be accomplished by using about one-fourth of well decomposed leaf mould in the soil in which they are potted. It must be very well rotted however or it will sour the soil. Sometimes the plant does not grow more than an inch or so a year. Pruning will often remedy this ; but pruning means the loss of the season's bloom. Many grow them in shade in the summer ; but if the roots are well cared for, the best success seems to follow setting them in the open sun.

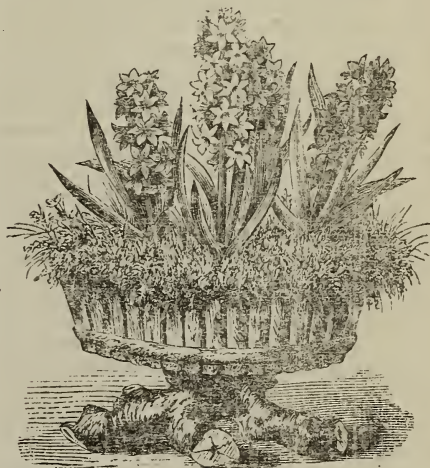
WINTER BLOOMING CARNATIONS.

Of late years the race of winter blooming carnations has proved one of the most popular of all flowers, and are becoming almost as numerous as the old time prize carnation. As window flowers however, they are only a success when they have an abundance of light. Many plants will do well in partial shade ; but the carnation must have the full sun to do well. Many find much difficulty also in the watering of carnations in pots. They do not require as much water as many other things. Indeed few things suffer so much from over-watering as these do. How much they ought to have can not be well stated, though it is a question often asked. Watering depends on light, and the temperature of the room. Carnations do not like much heat. If they are in a room temperature to suit them, they would need to have water more than twice a week. The more light there is the faster they dry. The best guide in watering is one's own experience. Water is very heavy. A pot that needs water is comparatively light, when wet it is heavy. One who handles pots much soon finds out these things.

Flowering Bulbs in Sponge.

We give the following seasonable article on growing the Hyacinth in sponge and otherwise, from the 4th number of "*Vick's Floral Guide*," for 1873, with an illustration kindly furnished us by that veteran Florist :

An article was published in the English papers about a year since, stating that if Hyacinths were placed in a sponge they would flower almost immediately—in a few weeks at most—and much sooner than if placed in either earth or water. This was copied by many American papers, but there is no merit in the method, so far at least as the hastening of flowering is concerned. Hyacinths will flower in water, or anything that will hold moisture, like moss, and of course a coarse sponge is almost or quite unequalled for this purpose. Cut a place in the sponge sufficient to insert the bulb. The



sponge can be placed in a basket or stand. To conceal the dark looking mass, sow over it a little Cress, or fine grass seed, and it will be soon green. Of course the sponge must be kept supplied with water. The engraving shows a few Hyacinths we grew in sponge last season. They flowered in thirty days after planting, but about three weeks after we put a few in earth that flowered in fifteen days after planting. The Hyacinth need a long season of rest, and does not become anxious to grow until about the first of December, and this desire increases as time advances. A Hyacinth planted the first of November will go along moderately, and will take nearly three months in blooming. The same bulb, if kept out of the ground, in a cool and moist place, so that vitality would not be weakened, and planted in January, would flower in thirty or forty days. As a general rule, however, the slower growth produces the more robust plants and the most perfect flowers.

LADIES DEPARTMENT.

A Chat with the Ladies for DECEMBER.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"December, fat and rosy strides—
His old heart warm, well clothed his sides—
With kindly word for young and old,
The cheerier for the bracing cold;
Laughing a welcome, open flings
His doors, and as he does it, sings."

"No mark of vegetable life is seen,
Save the dark leaves of some ever-green;
No bird to bird, repeats his tuneful call,
Save the lone red-breast on the mossing town wall."

Nature puts on her sad, melancholy aspect, and will soon be shrouded in a sheet of snow and ice and diamond frost-work, while she takes her long winters sleep and rest. With what different feelings and thoughts is the approach of winter received by persons. The young maiden and robust youth, hail it with glad some joy as the season for fun and frolic, sleighing and balls. The boys look upon it as a season for full enjoyment of the delights of skating, snow-balling, rabbit-catching and bird trapping, &c. The moralist, old enough to be selfish a little, cogitates over preparations for spending the drear freezing winter weather in a way most comfortable and advantageous to his ease and perhaps self or amusement; and it may be, how and where to spend the long bitter nights in intellectual acquirements and advancement in useful knowledge. The Christian is reminded of the long winter that death brings sooner or later, and thus reflecting, he determines upon the charities to be dispensed and the discharge of other good works to aid in the preparation for that inevitable event.

In the flower garden, the shrubs, &c., should be tied up, and all tender bulbs and plants protected against the severity of the cold as suggested last month.—Roses, snowballs, lilacs and other description of hardy shrub flowers may be planted out until the ground becomes frozen. Mulch well those you plant now, with long, coarse stable manure.

This month is a busy one with the notable and good providing housekeepers. A supply of pickling material is to be taken from the brine, soaked and put in spiced vinegar for the winter's use. Arrangements are to be perfected for making successfully fresh butter all winter for sale as well as for family use.

Poultry are to be looked to for a plentiful supply of eggs in addition to what have been packed in bran, salt, brine, lime-water, or greased and packed with little end down, &c.

Apples, grapes and pears are to be examined and packed away in a room of suitable temperature for their keeping sound until wanted for use during winter and next spring.

As Christmas approaches, poultry are to be made fat by attention and generous as well as judicious feeding. Dark coops away from other poultry are best to fatten fowls in. Chickens will not thrive after being in the fattening coop fifteen days. If not killed then, they should be turned out, to run a few days, before being put up again. It is said by practical poulterers that geese fatten rapidly and astonishingly gain weight from being fed with finely chopt turnips, in a trough, with water.

Fork is to be put away for the coming year's bacon. Sausages, liver puddings, soused pigs feet, head-cheeses are all to be made this month.

Mince Pies are to be made, and mince meat to be mixed and put in jars. A lot of plum-puddings to be made, boiled and hung up in the garret or pantry or other dry secure place in the cloths in which they were boiled. They will then, any time during winter, be ready for the table by being plunged in boiling water while the meats are served and eaten at dinner. This is a great convenience, especially where company come late and unexpectedly. A rich plum pudding with a few small dishes of preserved or canned fruit, or candied fruits, rich milk, cheese, fruit and nuts of your own raising, or exotic nuts will make on a half hour's notice a very respectable dessert; one that the old or young head of the table might be well content with, but not proud of, except that commendable pride which comes from a consciousness of having faithfully done her duty as a careful and provident house-wife. Her reward would be the approving smile of her husband, and the praises her well appointed table elicited from her friendly guests.

In anticipation of the coming Christmas I desire to hope each one of you may have a joyous and happy time in the celebration of this anniversary of the birth of the Saviour of man. May no care rest on the brow or grief wring the heart of a single soul, and may each one in her own way enjoy life's highest blessings to the full, and in the midst of a superabundance of this world's gifts, may none of us forget the poor, the lowly and the suffering sick! Winter is terrible to the destitute widow or orphan and impecunious sick man. It should be our aim to search for all cases, within our reach where real charity can be bestowed, and to relieve it if possible. Our aim should be to have not one soul within our neighborhood unhappy through want, this coming blessed Christmas. While I plead for mercy and sweet charity, which can be exerted in a hundred ways other than in giving money, I would beg you to read and heed the following, touching lines of the sweet poetess, ELIZA COOK.

WINTER IS COMING.

Winter is coming! who cares? who cares?

Not the wealthy and proud, I trow;

"Let it come," they cry, "what matter to us
How chilly the blast may blow?"

"We'll feast and carouse in our lordly halls,
The goblet of wine we'll drain,
We'll mock at the wind with shouts of mirth
And music's echoing strain.

"Little care we for the biting frost,
While the fire gives forth its blaze;
And what to us is the dreary night,
While we dance in the wax light days?"

'Tis thus the rich of the land may talk;
But think, oh, ye vaunting great,
That the howling storm ye laugh at within
Falls sore on the Poor at your Gate.

They have blood in their veins, ay, pure as thine
But naught to quicken its flow;
They have limbs that feel the whistling gale
And shrink from the driving snow.

Winter is coming—oh! think ye great,
On the roofless, naked and old;
Deal with them kindly, as man with man,
And spare them a tithe of your gold!

For the Maryland Farmer.

AUTUMN LEAVES.

Dear Farmer:—Spring, Summer, and the bright days of Autumn are gliding swiftly by. Beach trips and mountain tours are things of the past, our visitors "like swallows homeward fly," and although a pleasant memory of the summer lingers in our minds, a great calm rests upon us, and without regrets we'll settle down quietly in our country home, and as we gather cosily around the blazing hearth, the leisure hours come stealing back, our thoughts turn to our seemingly neglected, but ever welcome visitor, "*The Maryland Farmer*."

The country is never more beautiful than in Autumn, "its garniture of rudy-hued leaves and fully ripened fruits, is suggestive of fairy scenes."

"Autumn's painting is unrivaled,
Georgous colors are dispayed,
Golden tinges deepen, redden,
Wood's in splendor are arrayed."

The word Fall is expressive of the season, it is the fall of flowers, of fruits, of nuts and of leaves everywhere, so noiselessly and almost unperceived the season has stolen upon us, while we have been engaged in our summer's toils and pleasure; the wheels of nature have kept up their rapid revolutions, and ere we've noted the change, the lillies and roses have given place to crimson dahlias, and golden chrysanthemum, a russet hue has tinted the forest, "keen winds have replaced the soft zephyrs, and now sadly moan o'er the dying year, its beauty enhanced tenfold."

"How grandly fades the glories of the year,
So beautiful their life, and yet so brief,
O let us linger by the summer's bier
And read life's lesson in the autumn leaf."

These bright autumnal days with their overflowing wealth of brilliant coloring are quite enough to attract one to the forest paths, that are fast being covered up with the fallen leaves, and as gathering leaves is now quite the fashion, the woods and meadows resound with cheerful voices, and the merry laugh of the fair gleaners, who return richly laden with the forest treasures, and some really beautiful ornaments are made of them, that will decorate and brighten their homes through the long cold winter; almost every tree contributes a distinct and different shade: the Hickory and Chestnut are a golden hue, the Sweet Gum, Vermillion, the Ash, furnishes different shades of purple; the Tulip tree is lemon, and the Maples, the gayest of all, gives us every shade of color combined; the giant Oak is the last to change its verdant garb for a dress of gray, brown or chocolate. For the benefit of my lady friends let me say, beware of the poison leaves. The fiery scarlet of the Sumac is rarely equaled, and the wild ivy is the most attractive of climbers; examine well before you gather them; the ivy may be distinguished by its trailing habit, covering fences and trees with a blaze of beauty; its leaves grow in threes, and are shining on both sides, are of a broad oval shape, and sharp at the point.—The poison Sumac closely resembles the common Sumac, excepting its flower heads; the harmless kind has very long spikes of flowers, while the poison flowers are in loose bunches, and only grown on moist or swampy ground, the other one dry soil. So many persons are poisoned every year, that a few words of caution may not be unnecessary, only a little obser-

vation in selecting the leafy treasures is required, to do it with safety.

The Autumn scenery of America is unsurpassed in the richness of its tints; in Great Britain and on the Continent, such scenes are unknown. The poet said "November's days are chill and drear,
November's leaf is dark and sere."

The first explorers of America noted the Indian summer, and ever since it has excited the poetic fancy and philosophic inquiry; as to the natural causes of this phenomena, scientific men cannot agree, some insist that it is owing to the earth's passage in November, through or beneath the great meteor stratum which intercepts or checks the earth's radiations unto space, and also retards refrigeration by the meteors returning to the earth a portion of the heat they themselves receive from the sun.

Again, others say that when a tree or plant is in full vigor its foliage absorbs carbonic acid, and disengages oxygen, that when through the influences of a very low temperature the functions of vegetable life are suspended, and the fluids cease to circulate, the leaves no longer disengage oxygen, but in common with all dead bodies absorb the gas, which forming an acid changes the color of the leaves, either to yellow, red, or one of the intermediate shades, depending on the quality of the matter in the leaves: the acid, it is said, can be neutralized by an alkali, and the original color restored; such explanations may be very agreeable to the philosophic mind, but does not add to our enjoyment of such a scene of beauty.

In conclusion, allow me to offer my congratulations on the improved health of your Associate Editor: I am sure I express the feelings of the lady readers of the *Farmer* in regretting his severe illness during the past summer, and they are glad to know, "that Richard is himself again," for with a jubilant shout in the September number he announces to us, that "high living and good whiskey" is the panacea for all the ills the flesh is heir to, we hope his restoration is complete, and that in trying to avoid "Sylla, he may not wreck upon Charybdis."

WICOMICO.

WINTER IS HERE.

Winter is here, I know it is,
This fierce cold blast is surely his;
The summer solstice, it is past,
And lovely autumn faded fast;
The leafless trees both bleak and drear,
And shorten'd days proclaim what's here;
But then with frost and cold comes snow,
When merrily our sleighs will go:
With ice on ev'ry pond and lake,
Where on our skates we pleasure take.
Then as at eve the fire around
We gather close, there will abound
(E'en though the wind rage loud and long)
The story and the merry song.
But we must ever bear in mind
This is the season to be kind;
See that poor man how poorly clad;
Or widow in her weeds so sad,
With hungry children, half a score,
While we have all we want and more.
O let our poorer neighbours share
What e'er from heaven we have to spare,
For blessings great will God bestow,
On those who help the poor below

Great Sale of Kentucky Shorthorns.

On Wednesday, October 28th, the greatest sale ever held in this country took place near Paris, Kentucky. There was a large attendance of breeders, nearly all the States being represented—the occasion was the offering of Edwin G. Bedford's celebrated herd of Loudon Duchess Shorthorns. After a warm contest among the purchasers the sale resulted as follows:

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Loudon Duchess 3d, 7 yrs., C. M. Clay, Jr., Paris, \$2200	
Loudon Duchess 7th, 4 yrs., T. J. Megibben, Cincinnati	5100
Loudon Duchess 9th, 3 yrs., Jno. B. Kennedy, Lexington	6000
Loudon Duchess 11th, 3 yrs., T. J. Megibben	4400
Loudon Duchess 13th, 2 yrs., J. A. Spears, Indiana	2300
Loudon Duchess 1th, 1 yr., K. Holloway, Monmouth, Ill.	2700
Loudon Duchess 17th, 6 mos., J. H. Spears	2250
Cora 3d, 4 yrs., A. M. Lockridge, Greencastle, Ind	1500
Cora 4th, 3 yrs., W. E. Smith, Paris	600
Louan 35th, 9 yrs., Jno. Snell & Sons, Canada	1300
7th Louan of Oakland, 4 yrs., J. Nicolls, Bloomington, Ill.	1175
Louan of Woodlawn Villa, 3 mos., J. H. Spears & Sons	950
Kitty Clover 2d, 10 yrs., H. Miller, Paris	520
Her heifer calf, to same	300
Kitty Clover 3d, 5 yrs., F. J. Barbee, Paris	625
Kitty Clover 6th, 1 yr., W. Warnock, Cincinnati	1000
Cannondale 7 yrs., H. P. Thompson, Winchester	
Cannondale 2d, 3 yrs., E. L. Davidson, Springfield	1500
Cannondale 3d, 2 yrs., F. P. Bedford, Paris, Ky.	2 75
Lady Adela (imp.), 5 yrs., J. Nicolls, Bloomington, Ill.	1500
Gazelle of Woodlawn Villa (imp.), 2 yrs., J. Nicolls	1075
Lady Bates 4th, 7 yrs., E. K. Thomas, Middletown, Ky.	925
	2325

BULLS.

21st Duke of Airdrie, 4 yrs., J. H. Spears & Son	7025
Loudon Duke 13th, 2 yrs., A. C. Cane, Kas.	500
Loudon Duke 15th, 1 yr., S. Meredith & Son	2100
Loudon Duke 19th, 7 mos., W. K. Duncan, Iowa	3500
Woodland Star, 22 mos., M. Briggs, Kellogg	500
Oakland's Duke, 1 yr., B. Gooch, Mason, Texas	225
Bertram, 1 yr., R. Cochran, Harrison Co., O.	240
Oakland's Duke 2d, 5 mos., S. E. Cooper, Francisco, Calif., Mich.	320
Northumbrian 5th, 3 mos., F. J. Barbee	270
Cannon Ball, 3 mos., W. H. Richardson, Lexington, Ky.	425
1st Marquis of Bute, 2 yrs., F. J. Barbee	875
2d Marquis of Bute, 3 mos., D. C. Anderson, Mt. Sterling, Ky.	280
Jasper, 3 yrs., J. Hambrick, Greencastle, Ind.	225
Sterling Duke, 1 yr., J. Sudduth, Newtown, Ky.	300

SUMMARY.

22 cows and heifers, average	\$1,900—Total, \$41,800
14 bulls and b. calves, do.	1,199 do. 16,785

36 head, average	\$1,627—Total, \$58,585
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On the same day, at Paris, Ky., the herds of B. F. Bedford and James Hall, comprising 43 head—27 females and 16 bulls—were sold at public auction, a summary of which we append:

27 females, average	\$447.22—Total, \$12,075
16 bulls, do.	261.80—do. 4,190

43 animals, average	\$378.26—Ag'te \$16,265
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The joint sale of Geo. M. Bedford, Archy Bedford and W. S. Buckner, was held on Tuesday, Oct. 27th, 4 miles east of Paris—the attendance was fair and the sale good. The following is a summary of the sale:

43 females, average	\$346.15—Total, \$14,885
15 bulls, do.	247.00—do. 3,705

58 animals, gen'l average	\$20.52—Ag'te, 18,590
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Another sale took place at Winchester, Ky., October 29th, of Shorthorns belonging to B. B. Groom of

the Bates type. The herd comprised 118 head in all, and the prices brought were beyond the expectation of the owner. The following is a summary:

110 cows and heifers, average	\$593—Total, \$65,245
8 bulls and bull calves, do.	252 do. 2,020
118 head, average	\$570 do. \$67,265

Mr. Chas. S. Taylor, Wynona Stock Farm, Burlington, N. J., has purchased of Geo. E. Waring, Jr., Ogden Farm, the imported Jersey cow Ono 3247, and Rene 2d (6); of W. S. Taylor the imported Jersey Yellow Lily (165).

NEW PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE FOR 1875, came to hand some weeks since, and is embellished profusely with fine wood cuts representing almost every flower and vegetable named in the pamphlet. The frontispiece is a beautiful colored lithograph of a double *Peunia*. The arrangement of the reading matter and description of the flowers and plants is new, and a great improvement upon the usual manner of arranging these Catalogues. The reading matter is very instructive and particularly valuable to the inexperienced. The opening chapters on Floriculture and the Philosophy of vegetation are interesting and instructive. Price 25 cents a year.

CURTIS BAY: The Deep Water Harbor of Baltimore City.

This is the title of a neatly printed book with a map attached, and full of valuable information concerning the Commerce of Baltimore, and the great importance of Curtis Bay as a deep water harbor. It is published under the auspices of the Patapsco Land Company of Baltimore city. The early history of the city is given; its growth and present condition; its Railroad connections; its advantages of location for commercial and manufacturing purposes, and the plan of the Patapsco Land Company, &c. It is succinctly written and in excellent style. There are a great many facts and detailed statistics of great interest to the Baltimorean and also to the general reader. Such books are of real worth and deserve to be extensively read.

From Baltimore News Company, "FIVE THOUSAND A YEAR" is a new book from the pen of the author of "East Lynne," and it will command a large share of attention from the novel-reading community, as Mrs. Wood's fascinating manner of narration so distinguishing a feature in her many popular works, is here faithfully preserved. It is issued in one octavo volume, paper cover, price 25 cents, and is for sale by all booksellers, or copies will be sent to any one, post-paid, on remitting price to the publishers, T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa.

From Baltimore News Company, "THE NOBLEMAN'S WIFE" is the last production from the fertile pen of Mrs. Henry Wood, and it will undoubtedly prove acceptable to the novel-reader. It is issued in one octavo volume, paper cover, price 25 cents, and is for sale by all booksellers, or copies will be sent to any one, post-paid, on remitting price to the publishers, T. B. Peterson & Brothers, Philadelphia, Pa.

THE WHOLESALE PRICED CATALOGUE OF TREES, &c., from that excellent writer and learned author Thomas Meehan, Esq., of Germantown, Pa.

POULTRY SHOWS.

Bucks County, Pa., Doylestown	Dec. 8, 11
Central New York, Utica	Jan. 6, 13
Connecticut, Hartford	Dec. 15, 8
East-n Pennsylvannia, Doylestown	Dec. 8, 11
Iowa, Dubuque	Dec. 15, 18
Lehigh Valley, Pa.	Jan. 5, 8
Maine, Portland	Jan. 12, 15
Maryland, Baltimore	Jan. 5, 8
Massachusetts, Boston	Jan. 2, Feb. 4
New England, Worcester, Mass.	Dec. 1, 4
Western New York, Buffalo	Feb. 10, 17